



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

15th meeting

Friday, 22 October 2004, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Ping (Gabon)

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions under agenda items 56 to 72

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.5.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands): I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.5, entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology", under the cluster of "Other disarmament measures and disarmament machinery". I think that is the appropriate cluster.

I will be brief. This is the fourth year that this draft resolution has been introduced for consideration by the First Committee. In the past two years, it has been adopted by consensus.

The draft resolution is straightforward. It establishes norms and invites Member States that are in a position to do so to improve their national legislation, regulations and procedures to exercise effective control over the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology.

There are two small changes as compared to last year's resolution. First, we have inserted in operative paragraph 1 the phrase "without prejudice to the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)" because, obviously, last year that resolution did not exist and this year it does, and that

resolution also contains provisions related to this particular issue. This draft resolution will not affect that Security Council resolution, which goes without saying, but we felt that we needed to refer to that here.

The second small change is in the last operative paragraph, which normally puts this matter on the agenda of a subsequent session of the General Assembly. We decided in this case not to be too specific and to remain open to possibly biannualizing or triennializing this draft resolution, and that is why we said, "decides to remain attentive to the matter", which seemed to us to be an elegant formula to show flexibility as to the periodicity of this draft resolution.

I hope that once again the First Committee will adopt this draft resolution by consensus.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.1.

Mr. Dzundev (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): I have the honour, on behalf of its sponsors, to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.1 on "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe", under agenda item 58.

In addition to the sponsors mentioned in A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.1, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, San Marino, the Slovak

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



Republic, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey and the United Kingdom are also sponsors of the draft.

This draft resolution is a follow-up to resolution 57/52 and several others on the subject. It addresses the complexity of the issues of security, disarmament, stability and cooperation and reflects developments in the region in the recent period. The thrust of the draft resolution is further to promote a culture of good-neighbourliness, cooperation, stability and integration in order to enhance overall development and further stability in the region.

The region of South-Eastern Europe has recently undergone many positive changes. The most encouraging ones include the further intensification of cooperation among the countries of the region and their continued rapprochement with the European Union, which favourably influenced the overall situation in the region. The countries are making further efforts to consolidate the region as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy and the rule of law, as well as of economic development.

In the recent period, we also note the strengthening of regional and national efforts on arms control, demining and disarmament, including initiatives on combating the illicit trade in small arms and activities at the national level for their collection and destruction.

The United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the European Union, NATO, the Stability Pact and other regional organizations or initiatives, primarily the South-East Cooperation Process, have contributed to this positive climate. However, further efforts are needed to deal with the remaining challenges in order to achieve lasting security and stability in the region.

Regional and national responses are still needed to fight extremism and to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which is a destabilizing factor closely connected with various forms of organized crime and other issues of concern.

It is the belief of the sponsors that the text of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.1 is balanced and forward-looking. Its primary goal is to identify measures and efforts leading to the further stabilization of South-Eastern Europe and to the elimination of threats to its security.

In that context, it must be underlined that the primary responsibility for the future of the region rests with the States themselves, but also that international organizations have a significant role to play. Of no less importance is the full observance of the relevant international instruments.

Regarding the text itself, changes have already been made to A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.1. The Secretariat has just informed me that the text of operative paragraph 10, as it appears in the draft, has been changed as previously submitted to the Secretariat.

In conclusion, I would like to express gratitude to the delegations that contributed improvements to the text, and it is my wish and that of the sponsors that, as has been the case in the past, this draft resolution be adopted without a vote.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of Mongolia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.19.

Mr. Baatar (Mongolia): I have the honour to introduce a draft biennial resolution entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status", contained in document A/C.1/59/L.19. I ask your indulgence, as this draft resolution is under the cluster "Nuclear disarmament", not "Regional disarmament", which we are discussing today.

Steady progress has been made in consolidating Mongolia's international security since the adoption of the last General Assembly resolution under the same title, resolution 57/67. The Government of Mongolia has taken numerous actions based on its open, multi-pillar and proactive foreign policy towards that end. There have been welcome developments in political, economic and cultural bilateral relations with countries in the region and all over the world. Relations with many countries have reached the level of partnerships, including with the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Russia and, most recently, with the United States of America.

The nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia — an important aspect of the country's international security and foreign policy, as well as its contribution to strengthening peace and stability in the region and beyond — has continued to receive solid support from the international community. It was supported in a number of bilateral documents adopted at high and the

highest levels, for example, in the Mongolian and Chinese joint statement issued in June 2003 on the outcome of the State visit to Mongolia by the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Hu Jintao, as well as in the thirteenth Non-Aligned Summit, in Kuala Lumpur in 2003.

During the general debate, by delegation dwelt at length on the actions that my Government intends to take with regard to its nuclear-weapon-free status. I would therefore like to comment on developments in non-nuclear areas, namely, the economic and ecological vulnerability of the country. Two studies — on economic vulnerabilities and human security in Mongolia, and on ecological vulnerabilities and human security in Mongolia — were undertaken and have produced a set of conclusions, recommendations and messages for the future. The Government of Mongolia, as well as other national stakeholders, will consider them thoroughly. A very good update on the progress made can be found in the Secretary-General's report in document A/59/364.

I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, our sincere gratitude to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and, through him, to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for their continued assistance and support in the implementation of resolution 57/67.

I would emphasize that the draft resolution before the Committee is essentially a procedural one and includes some technical updates. It takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and expresses appreciation to him for his efforts to implement resolution 57/67. As did the previous resolution, it endorses and supports Mongolia's good-neighbourly relations with its neighbours and invites Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia on the implementation of the provisions of the resolution.

Please also note that my delegation has made some amendments to the text, upon close consultations with the concerned parties.

New language was introduced to operative paragraph 2, which now reads:

"Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the efforts to implement resolution

57/67, in particular the completion of the two studies on the non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security;"

The revised operative paragraph 5 will now read as follows:

"Invites Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status;"

The draft resolution, though procedural, has been the subject of very careful examination by interested delegations, and thus it enjoys wide support. My delegation, therefore, hopes that the Committee will agree, as before, to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Mr. Obiang (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is my honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.3, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", on behalf of sponsors Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Gabon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and my own country, Equatorial Guinea.

Among other purposes, this draft resolution seeks to promote confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels with a view to eliminating tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to promote peace, stability and development in the subregion. It also highlights the need to put into operation the early-warning mechanism in the subregion as an instrument for analysing and monitoring the situation in member States of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and thus to prevent situations such as that which would have developed in my country in March last year, had the attempted invasion by mercenaries succeeded.

I hope that this draft resolution will be approved without a vote.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.24.

Mr. Udedibia (Nigeria): On behalf of the African Group, I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.24, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

Allow me first to make a minor revision to the draft resolution. In the last preambular paragraph, "Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution" should be replaced by "Peace and Security Council". The paragraph thus begins: "Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union ...". The replacement should simply be "Peace and Security Council" for "Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution".

We have heard today a first-hand report on the situation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. You are correct in your conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that the situation of the Regional Centre is very critical.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa has continued to carry out activities in support of the efforts of African States in the areas of peace and security. The draft resolution considers the important role that the Regional Centre can play in promoting confidence-building and arms limitation measures at the regional level. It highlights the fact that the Centre had received an increasing number of requests from Member States in the African region for substantive support for several peace initiatives and conflict resolution activities in the region.

The Secretary-General's report on the Centre indicates that it continued to promote the implementation of multilateral legal instruments in the area of disarmament and of the Programme of Action of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Centre also continued to consolidate working relations with the African Union, regional and subregional organizations and civil society in the field of peace, disarmament and security in Africa.

As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, about 80 per cent of the required financial resources for the functioning of the Centre should be derived from voluntary contributions. Unfortunately, donors have not been forthcoming in contributions in recent times, with the result that the Centre had a balance of a

mere \$2,608 as at 30 June 2004 to cover its operational costs. As a consequence, the possibility of temporarily suspending its activities or relocating its operation in Lomé was raised in the report. In view of the Centre's precarious financial situation, the draft resolution appeals to States, international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and foundations to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre.

The draft resolution reaffirms the strong support for the Regional Centre and emphasizes the need to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to strengthen its activities and carry out its programmes. It requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Centre for better achievements and results. It also requests him to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre. Finally, it appeals to the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the African Union, regional and subregional organizations and the African States, to take steps to promote the consistent implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In terms of substance and objectives, the draft resolution is the same as that submitted by the African Group at the fifty-eighth session.

The draft resolution has always been adopted without a vote, both in the First Committee and in the General Assembly. As the sponsors of the draft resolution, the African Group is expressing the wish that the resolution be adopted without a vote. I wish, therefore, on behalf of the Group, to appeal for the support of all Member States in adopting the draft resolution without a vote at this session.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now call on the representative of Georgia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42.

Mr. Adamia (Georgia): As the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission at its 2004 session, and on behalf of the sponsors — who traditionally are members of the expanded Bureau of the Commission — it is my distinct pleasure to introduce

draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42, entitled, "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

The draft is the result of open-ended informal consultations among members of the Disarmament Commission. It has been prepared in a manner similar to that of previous resolutions regarding the Disarmament Commission, with only certain appropriate changes in the text, as circumstances warrant.

On the basis of our consultations, the Bureau has decided to propose to the Committee non-traditional dates for the Disarmament Commission next year: 18 July to 5 August. Those dates take into consideration the Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will be held early next year. The rest of the resolution is unchanged.

Allow me to say a few words concerning our work during the Commission's 2004 substantive session. The Disarmament Commission concluded its 2004 substantive session without reaching a consensus on a substantive agenda. Differences between various proposals proved to be irreconcilable during the three-week session. While that is not an encouraging sign for the disarmament efforts undertaken within the United Nations system, it is not a disaster, either, since the Commission's difficulties are more political than institutional.

The Disarmament Conference has been going through the phase of asserting its identity as the only multilateral body with universal membership for in-depth deliberations on disarmament issues. The Commission did not hold a session in 2002. It was also unable to reach a consensus in 2003 on the nuclear and conventional arms items on its agenda.

This year, delegations came close to accepting the Chairman's compromise on the nuclear issue, but they could not fill the remaining gap. The same was true with the third item proposed by the United States, on measures for improving the effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery. It is, of course, a disappointment to all of us that at the end it was not possible to overcome a few remaining obstacles. However, despite the inability of the Commission to reach a consensus, many interesting proposals were made during our deliberations. I hope they will serve as a good basis for consensus-building during the 2005 substantive session.

And one more observation — I think that the inability of the Disarmament Commission to yield tangible results has contributed to a heightened sense of urgency on the part of the international community to react and respond adequately to emerging threats to global peace and security by fully utilizing United Nations disarmament machinery in general, and the Disarmament Commission in particular. I hope that the overall atmosphere of expectation will positively influence the work of the Commission in 2005. I believe I speak on behalf of all delegations when I express this guarded optimism as to the future success of the Commission.

Before concluding my brief remarks, allow me to thank delegations for their cooperation and constructive spirit, and members of the Bureau for their support. Let me also remind delegations that the Commission's organizational session will be held on 4 November, and the regional groups are kindly reminded to nominate their candidates for the Bureau as soon as possible.

I hope that draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42 will again enjoy consensus support, as in previous years.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I thank the representative of Georgia for the information he has given us about the organizational meeting of the Disarmament Commission. I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.2/Rev.1.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): The Russian Federation is tabling for the consideration of the First Committee draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.2/Rev.1 under agenda item 60, "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". We would like to thank all those States who supported the Russian initiative on international information security, which has been embodied in this resolution, which in recent years has traditionally been adopted by consensus in the General Assembly. This attests to the broad recognition of the importance of this subject at the international level and to the world community's unity in approaches to the tasks involved in this kind of work.

The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", contained in document A/59/116 and Add.1,

sets forth a range of new national views and assessments that are an important addition to the views and assessments that were submitted by Member States earlier. The matter of the potential use for purposes inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability of information and telecommunications technologies and means on which the infrastructures of States are increasingly dependent has a direct bearing on ensuring the military and political security of countries worldwide. Information security is a substantial element of national security of States, and is also a portion of the overall system of international security and strategic stability.

Recent developments, above all the escalation of international terrorism, reaffirm yet again the fact that threats to information security are cross-border in nature. What is more, aggression can be carried out with the hostile use of modern information and communications technologies.

It is important to approach the problem holistically, recognizing that, as noted in the draft resolution, information technologies and means may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States, to the detriment of their security in both the civil and military fields. In this context, one key task is the protection of computer networks.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/32, in 2004 a United Nations group of governmental experts was established to investigate this subject in all its aspects. The group's first meeting, which took place in July of this year, reaffirmed the relevance and multidimensional nature of international information security and the need for and usefulness of comprehensively studying it. The results of the studies by this group of governmental experts, which is the first of its kind, will provide the basis for a report of the Secretary-General. They are to become the departure point for further work on strengthening information security at the national, regional and international levels. In 2005, the group's work will be continue. We believe it is important to reaffirm the overall thrust and the specific tasks involved in its activities.

At this General Assembly session, the Russian Federation is tabling a new draft resolution on information security. The text contains no fundamental changes, compared to the consensus resolution of the Assembly's fifty-eighth session, and differs from it

only stylistically. At the concluding stage of work, by interacting with a number of delegations — and we express our gratitude to them — we made a number of minor technical adjustments to the text in order to reflect more accurately the current stage of the work of group on this subject matter.

We call upon delegations to support the draft resolution of the Russian Federation, and we anticipate that, as in previous years, it will be adopted without a vote, by consensus.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.32.

Mr. Verma (India): I have the honour to introduce a draft resolution entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament", contained in document A/C.1/59/L.32 and sponsored by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Viet Nam, Zambia and India.

India first brought this resolution before the First Committee in 1989.

Significant recent advances in information technology, advanced materials and biotechnology and space applications offer vast possibilities for socio-economic development. Access to those technologies is undoubtedly a crucial prerequisite for developing countries. This fact has been recognized by various arms control and disarmament conventions.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) — the first multilateral disarmament agreement of a universal character eliminating a complete class of weapons of mass destruction — offered an opportunity to put in place a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and legal mechanism that would address proliferation concerns about transfers, while promoting the economic interests of States parties. The sponsors of the present draft resolution want to make the CWC a model for other, future organizations.

India has recognized the dual-use character of many of the advances in science and technology. The potential for their use for both civilian and military

applications is a legitimate cause of concern. However, discriminatory regimes deny access to these crucial technologies to the developing countries, even for peaceful development purposes. Exclusivist export control policies were initiated at a time when there were no global agreements that comprehensively addressed proliferation concerns. Recent events question the effectiveness of such ad hoc arrangements in achieving their stated purpose.

India has consistently maintained that multilaterally negotiated and non-discriminatory agreements that are transparent and open to universal participation would be the best way to address proliferation concerns. The Final Document of the Non-Aligned Movement's Kuala Lumpur Summit, adopted in February last year, has also supported this approach.

There is a need today, more than ever before, to agree on an effective and transparent system of control over export of technologies and materials that would achieve the objectives of non-proliferation in all its aspects while ensuring access to those technologies for peaceful applications. Draft resolution L.32 hopes to encourage and support such a process. India, along with the other sponsors, hopes that this draft resolution will receive the widest possible support.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of the United States, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.1.

Mr. Luiges (United States of America): Our delegation takes the floor, under the sub-cluster on disarmament machinery, to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.1, entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee". Both the subject and the draft text enjoy a wide level of support, as we believe we all have seen during the past weeks, and we believe that the draft resolution will be adopted if it were to be brought to a vote.

However, we wish to call the attention of delegations to the possibility that it will not be brought to a vote, and that is because, as most delegates now know, the United States delegation and the delegation of Indonesia, representing the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries have been involved in a series of consultations, with the possibility of merging the texts of draft resolution L.1 and draft resolution L.13 of the same title, introduced by Malaysia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. To date those consultations

have been constructive, and they are proceeding. As a matter of transparency, we share with delegates that our two delegations conducted another consultation on this today.

In fact, for the information of those delegates who were not present yesterday afternoon, the delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, chaired an open-ended consultation on L.13 at which the United States delegation, in consultation with the delegation of Indonesia, circulated a draft document that proposes to merge elements of L.1, L.13 and a series of recommendations or proposals submitted to us by the European Union. That document is already in informal circulation. We may or may not have copies available here; I do not really know. But we certainly would be in a position to make them available at the next round of consultations, which are scheduled to be held on Monday — our supposed day off — in order to pursue a consensual text dealing with the revitalization of the Committee in accordance with resolution 58/316.

We would point out that at yesterday's meeting, our delegation proposed that henceforth all consultations be open-ended, to permit the participation of all interested delegations, and that perhaps the document on which the United States and Indonesia have been working might serve as an acceptable working document.

To that end, yesterday our delegation submitted to the delegation of Indonesia and the delegation of the Netherlands, in its capacity as the current President of the European Union, a working draft incorporating all three elements, removing any reference to it being a potential revision of the United States-sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.1 and containing a change in the draft's operative paragraph 13, which makes clear that the recommendations made by the First Committee would not in fact be final. Rather, in concurrence with the guidance given to all the Main Committees by the General Assembly through resolution 58/316, the First Committee it would submit a series of consensualized recommendations to the General Committee for consideration and possible recommendation to the plenary, for action by 1 April.

We are looking forward to continuing the open-ended consultations, which so far have been done in a constructive, consensual atmosphere. We simply call to everyone's attention that it would be our hope that, if

we all arrive at an agreement on a consensualized text, perhaps there might not be any need to bring forward either L.1 or L.13.

Obviously, right now, the working draft looks like a resolution, but the end product may well not be. Once there is agreement on the substance of the text, delegations would have to turn their attention — in consultation with the Chair, in our view — to what would be the best method to convey our collective views on improving the methods of work of the First Committee to the General Committee for its consideration.

We continue to consider it important that whatever action the General Committee takes with regard to anything that could affect the future operation of the First Committee should, to the extent possible, remain in our collective hands. That is to say that, obviously, the ladies and gentlemen who have the honour to represent our respective Governments in the General Committee, should not by and large, be expected to have an expert level of knowledge of the very technical issues with which we deal, or to be familiar with the particular institutional character of the First Committee, as compared to the other Main Committees.

Therefore, we feel very strongly that the only way the General Committee could make informed decisions that might affect our future operation, as those who sit here representing our Governments, is if they work on a set of recommendations produced by us — the experts in the field of the subjects with which we deal in the First Committee — in a consensualized manner and referred to the General Committee under resolution 58/316.

We intend to continue our consultations, now expanded, with all delegations in an open-ended and transparent manner, in the hope that within the next few working days, all of us shall be able to agree on the substance of the document and be able to turn our attention to assisting the Chairman to determine the best way to communicate our collective views on this important issue to the General Assembly through the General Committee.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): As I have already mentioned, I intend the Committee to take up this matter on Monday. It is my hope that at that time, the delegations that support the text in A/C.1/59/L.13, the delegations of the Movement of Non-Aligned

Countries and the United States delegation will have more information on progress made in their consultations.

But for now, we shall continue to introduce draft resolutions. I give the floor to the delegation of Argentina to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52.

Ms. Marín (Argentina): It is my honour to introduce, on behalf of 90 delegations, draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52, "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms". The draft's sponsors are listed on page one of L.52 and in the information note just distributed by the Secretariat. Two delegations have been added to the list.

The Argentinean initiative to introduce this draft resolution is part of the framework of our efforts to resume the dialogue on this issue that took place at the 2000, 2001 and 2003 substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission. Those occasions highlighted the fact that important developments were taking place in the area of confidence-building measures in various regions around the world, but that delegations lacked information on them.

The objective of the present draft resolution is to enhance information on the latest developments. The draft resolution is not prescriptive; rather, it encourages only the voluntary provision of information on confidence-building measures. Thus its operative paragraphs 1 and 2 welcome and encourage all measures in that respect. Operative paragraph 3 is aimed at follow-up between one General Assembly session and the next. That is linked to the idea Argentina presented in the framework of enhancing the work of the First Committee. The idea was then to have informal meetings every two or three months so that delegations who so desire could describe their experience and the developments that have taken place.

Operative paragraph 4 makes up for what would be the recommendations of the Disarmament Commission when it considered this matter, that is, requesting the Secretary-General to establish an electronic database containing information provided voluntarily by Member States and to assist them, at their request, to organize workshops, seminars, etc. Those activities would be carried out with the financial support of States that are in a position to provide it, and thus there would be no impact on the regular budget of the Organization.

Argentina would again like to express its thanks for the support it has received in this regard and hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of India to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31.

Mr. Prasad (India): I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution on "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" contained in document A/C.1/59/L.31 and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Armenia, Bhutan, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, Poland and Sri Lanka.

The resolution, first adopted in 2002, continued to command consensus support in 2003 within both the First Committee and the General Assembly. It gives expression to shared concerns of the international community and calls upon Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. It emphasizes that the international response to the threat needs to be inclusive, multilateral and global. That approach has been widely endorsed, by the Non-Aligned Movement, the G-8, the European Union and most other regional organizations.

The resolution this year includes some technical updates. In particular, it takes note, in a new fourth preambular paragraph, of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The resolution placed before the First Committee has continuing relevance as an unambiguous statement from a body that is universal and democratic. The representative character of the General Assembly validates and reinforces the commitments that we assume as Member States in this regard.

I appeal to delegations of the First Committee to extend to this initiative an even wider measure of support than in the previous two years, through additional co-sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31. That will demonstrate a larger measure of involvement of the wider United Nations membership on this vital issue.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor to the representative of Mexico to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.51 and L.18.

Ms. García-Guerra (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for my delegation to present two draft resolutions under agenda item 66, entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", which session, held in 1982, was the second special session devoted to disarmament.

As to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.51, entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme", it is important to highlight that also in 1982, Alva Myrdal of Sweden and Alfonso García Robles of Mexico were recognized for their efforts in promoting the World Disarmament Campaign and were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

With this precedent, affirmed in the preamble of the draft resolution, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Liberia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines and South Africa, the Mexican delegation hopes that it can count on unanimous support for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as a means of dissemination and in order that all the peoples we represent can thus have better access to the content of our deliberations.

Under the same agenda item, the Committee is called on to examine the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, contained in document A/59/157. That report describes the current and future activities of the Centre. We already had an opportunity, in the informal dialogue, to exchange information on the activities of the Centres. For the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States, unanimous support for draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.18 would mean recognition of the importance of the work of the Regional Centre as an agency to help the countries of the region make progress towards peace, disarmament and development.

Ms. Pollack (Canada): I would like to introduce resolution A/C.1/59/L.33, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification". Members will recall that last year, in the spirit of rationalizing our working methods, Canada did not introduce what had been a biennial resolution, but utilized instead a decision, 58/515, and encouraged an exchange of views on this important

issue during the thematic debate, as is occurring again this year. At the current session, we held two open-ended consultation meetings on the topic.

As we have heard in the thematic exchange, verification and compliance is a timely and crucial topic, and it behooves the Committee to address it in a substantive fashion. This resolution moves us into a further phase of consideration of the subject of verification and the role of the United Nations, proceeding at a measured pace and building on earlier inputs. It involves the general exchange of views last year and this in the Committee, formal solicitation of the views of Members in 2005 and convening a panel of experts in 2006.

We believe that this approach provides ample opportunity for all to express their views and to benefit from expert opinions on options for enhancing verification capabilities — which Committee members can assess at the Assembly's sixty-first session — in deciding how to proceed. We will be continuing consultations with sponsors and interested delegations, and look forward to garnering wide support for the resolution, which remains open for co-sponsorship.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Malaysia, who will present a number of draft resolutions on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Mr. Rastam (Malaysia): I have the honour to introduce six draft resolutions on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), as our contribution to the multilateral disarmament process. In the interests of maintaining the efficiency of our work, which you have so ably steered us through, Mr. Chairman, I shall be as brief as possible.

First, I would like to introduce a draft resolution, under agenda item 65 (e), entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", which is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.28. The symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in that connection cannot be denied. NAM is concerned at increasing global military expenditures — funds that could otherwise be spent on development, poverty eradication and the elimination of diseases, especially in developing countries. NAM therefore believes that States should consider allocating part of their resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social

development. In that connection, NAM welcomes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/59/119) and its reappraisal of that significant issue in the current international context.

The second draft resolution that I wish to introduce, under agenda item 65 (k), is entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee" and is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.13. This draft resolution is submitted by NAM in the spirit of General Assembly resolutions 58/41, 58/126 and 58/316, as well in our recognition of the importance of enhancing the effectiveness, role and working methods of the First Committee. NAM seeks to offer its views on that important question through this draft resolution. We believe that improving the functioning of the Committee is an ongoing process that should be considered in an integrated and comprehensive manner through the existing three stages of the Committee's work. NAM believes that the measures proposed in the draft resolution could contribute towards improving the Committee's functioning and its role in promoting peace and security.

I should like to inform the Committee, however, that we are continuing with informal consultations with all delegations with a view to agreeing on a consensus text. I refer to the statement made earlier by the representative of the United States. I share his view that it is important that wider consultations be carried out to ensure that we can agree on a consensus text on this very important question.

The third draft resolution I am introducing, under agenda item 65 (n), is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.11 of 12 October 2004 and is entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation". The Non-Aligned Movement believes strongly in multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as the only sustainable way of addressing disarmament and international security issues. We believe that it is critical for the General Assembly to adopt such a resolution to reflect our continued conviction of the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. The draft resolution embodies the desire of the international community for multilateral cooperation in this area. We believe that much is at

stake, including the danger that existing international disarmament treaties could unravel.

The fourth draft resolution, under agenda item 65 (o), is A/C.1/59/L.10, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control". NAM considers this question to be an important item on the Committee's agenda. Ensuring the continued sustainability of the global environment is an issue of the utmost importance, especially for succeeding generations. We should collectively endeavour to ensure that necessary measures are taken to preserve and protect the environment, especially in the formulation and implementation of agreements concerning disarmament and arms control.

The fifth draft resolution that we wish to introduce, under agenda item 65 (dd), is A/C.1/59/L.14, which is entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament". As a result of open-ended informal consultations, and for the sake of clarity, NAM has made a minor correction to paragraph 2 by inserting the phrase "in 2006" after "its substantive sessions". I believe that the Committee can accept that text, as orally corrected.

For the information of the Committee, following consultations with the Secretariat concerning the date for convening the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly (SSOD-IV), there will be one meeting of the organizational session in January 2006 and three substantive sessions consisting of 15 meetings. The substantive sessions will be convened in spring 2006, between March and June. The report of the Open-ended Working Group on SSOD-IV will be submitted prior to the conclusion of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly — at the latest in August 2006.

I should like to add that the draft resolution follows on resolution 58/521, on the same subject, which was adopted by consensus both in this Committee and in the General Assembly.

Finally, I would like to introduce a draft resolution entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament", under agenda item 66 (f), which is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.9. The United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament have, in our view, been instrumental in promoting understanding and cooperation among

States in their respective regions in the fields of peace, disarmament and development. We hope that the regional centres will continue to receive support — especially from Member States — with a view to enabling them to strengthen, improve and implement their activities and programmes. I should like also to add that the draft resolution follows on resolution 58/63, on the same subject. We hope that the current draft resolution will receive similar support from the members of this Committee, as well as the General Assembly.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Non-Aligned Movement hopes that all delegations will be able to join us in extending their support to the six draft resolutions that my delegation has just tabled. We wish to thank all delegations that have engaged in consultations on these draft resolution with NAM.

Mr. Wolter (Germany): I wish simply to follow the appeal of the Ambassador of India regarding the very important draft resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Germany is pleased to announce that we will be co-sponsoring that draft resolution.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): We now will embark on our last segment, on matters related to international disarmament and security, including education for disarmament and non-proliferation.

Ms. DeSutter (United States of America): I am pleased to see a colleague from our important friend and neighbour to the south presiding over the Committee. I would like to thank you, Sir, and this body for the opportunity to share United States views on verification, compliance and compliance enforcement.

Given the time of day, I will abbreviate my remarks somewhat, and I understand that the full text of my statement will be made available.

Verification, compliance and enforcement are closely related. Together they are keys to our collective ability to achieve the security benefits we seek from arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements.

Unfortunately, however, these elements — and the relationships among them — are not always well understood. Today I would like to share with the Committee some of our thinking about the importance of these elements and the ways in which they interact.

Verification, compliance assessment and compliance enforcement are the three components of a policy process wherein information about a State's actions is weighed against its obligations and commitments, and, if it is determined that the State is not fulfilling its obligations and commitments, steps are identified and taken to induce or enforce compliance.

The first step of this process is to assess the extent to which an agreement can actually be verified. This step is undertaken in the United States before we enter into negotiations for a new agreement, during its negotiation as changes to the agreement are considered, and after an agreement is concluded. The second step in this process is an assessment of the non-compliance of parties to the agreement, once the agreement has entered into force. The final step is compliance enforcement: the determination of what can or must be done to bring a party that is judged to have violated its obligations back into compliance or otherwise respond to that party's non-compliance.

Many consider these factors — verification, compliance, and enforcement — as separate and separable activities. However, as with a three-legged stool, one or two legs are not enough; they are interdependent.

There has been much discussion in many international forums about whether or not certain nations have violated their international obligations. There has been less discussion of the process by which nations reach their compliance judgments, and the methodologies they employ. But, if we are to understand each other and work together to retain the benefits of our agreements, it is important that we understand the process by which each of us reaches the conclusions that we have on compliance.

Initial indications for the United States of a potential problem of non-compliance can come from a broad array of information, including an intelligence report, information from an international organization, or even revelations of a private citizen that flag an activity of concern. While all information, whatever its source, warrants evaluation, information that can be independently confirmed is considered to be the strongest information, especially when it can be confirmed from multiple sources.

When information available to us suggests that there may be a compliance question, one of the first

steps we take is to look at the international agreement or other commitment in question to see what States parties are obliged to do.

International agreements and other commitments are made up of words, and it is always important — and sometimes decisive — clearly to establish what the precise obligation is in the case under review. While the review of obligations and commitments is under way, we seek all possible additional information regarding the activities of concern. Multiple sources of information are especially important if the matter is grave.

Ultimately, we weigh the best available evidence regarding the actions and activities of the country in question against our understanding of that country's obligations to form our compliance assessments, and finally we reach a finding. In cases where the information is not sufficient to reach a firm finding of violation, we will "caveat" it by explicitly noting uncertainties or ambiguities in the evidence. Whenever we can, we distinguish between inadvertent violations and deliberate ones, because that distinction can have an important bearing on what action will need to be taken in order to rectify the problem. We also endeavour to communicate the degree of seriousness of a violation and to identify the steps that might be needed to bring the party back into compliance, or to respond in other ways that satisfy the concern.

Let me underscore that making a determination as to when another State is in violation with its international obligations is not an easy matter. The process for us is time-consuming, rigorous and systematic. However, as a State party to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and commitments, we rest our safety and security in part upon other countries' compliance with those agreements and commitments. Therefore, the compliance assessment process is, for us, a necessary early warning call to action.

The compliance process that I have just described not only informs our judgment as to whether we are facing non-compliance that requires a response; it also informs our judgment as to whether future treaties are effectively verifiable.

Determining the extent to which an agreement can be verified necessarily involves a number of variables, both technical and contextual, that vary from one proposed agreement to the next, and which

sometimes hinge upon specific nuances of phrasing or the nature of the constrained activities.

I am often asked if the United States demands "perfect" verification. The answer is, of course, no. There is no such thing as perfect verification. The term "effectively verifiable" does not, and should not be taken, to mean that there is, or can ever be, certainty that a future violation will be detected. This phrase indicates, however, that the aspiration is to achieve reasonable confidence — under the circumstances — that detection of non-compliance will occur in time for appropriate responses to be undertaken.

The United States considers an arrangement or treaty to be effectively verifiable if the degree of verifiability is judged to be sufficient given the compliance history of the parties involved, the risks associated with non-compliance, the difficulty of response to deny violators the benefits of their violations, the language and measures incorporated into the agreement and our own national means and methods of verification.

International organizations and mechanisms can provide useful and essential input to nations for their consideration in making these assessments. They can also provide useful forums for sharing other information, for sharing judgments and for deliberating response options. But international organizations are not parties to agreements. States are parties to agreements.

It is a common misperception that a combination of international data declarations, international cooperative measures — including technical measures — and on-site inspection regimes all by themselves will be sufficient for detecting non-compliance. In fact, data declarations, cooperative measures and on-site inspections can provide useful and often invaluable information. They are useful tools for investigating indications of non-compliance — as we have seen the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) do to great effect in Iran, for example — and they are useful tools for detecting inadvertent violations. However, inspections provide information according to agreed access and collection capabilities negotiated by the parties, and only provide such information as is available at the specific time and place of the inspection. Even cooperative measures, such as remote cameras and seals for continuous

monitoring, while quite powerful, are limited to the locations where they are employed.

Some agreements provide for challenge or suspect site inspections in an effort to address these challenges. However, the inspectors still must know where to look, and — if they find the right place to look — there must be some means of determining whether the activities at that location are permitted or prohibited. On-site measures that cannot make a significant contribution to verification may only build a false sense of security.

To increase the likelihood that non-compliance — especially undeclared activities at undeclared locations — will be detected, one must be able to draw on all sources of information, both national and international. National means and methods of verification are thus necessarily a critical part of every approach to verification.

If arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and commitments are to support the security of all nations, all nations must respond when confronted with non-compliance. Unilateral United States action to encourage compliance is not enough. Detecting a violation is not an end in itself; it is a call to action. Without strict compliance and without the concerted action of all parties to insist upon strict compliance — and to hold violators accountable for their actions — the national security of all nations will erode and global stability will be undermined.

In conclusion, I would like once again to thank the Committee for the opportunity to share our perspectives on the role of verification, compliance and compliance enforcement. These principles underlie our approach to a range of vital issues that affect international peace and security, and I am pleased to have been able to outline them for the Committee. I look forward to discussing them further with all parties with a view to developing and improving our collective effectiveness in meeting verification and compliance challenges. We have much work to do together.

Mr. Opgenorth (Canada): First of all, I would like to say that Canada is very pleased to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53, introduced by Mexico, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education". The draft resolution affirms that the need for education and outreach in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation has never

been greater, and recognizes the importance of the United Nations, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in the pursuit of this goal.

Canada has long recognized and supported the active engagement of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of our shared non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament objectives. The Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds consultations annually with civil society to address topical non-proliferation and disarmament issues. We have introduced the practice of including representatives of civil society in our delegations to meetings of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Canada provides funding to NGOs to convene expert-level consultations, and supports the efforts of Reaching Critical Will to ensure wide public access to national statements and other documents emanating from meetings of United Nations disarmament bodies.

The international security research and outreach programme of Foreign Affairs Canada constitutes a focal point for original research and assessment relevant to international security issues, including non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament, verification and confidence-building measures. The programme draws together in-house capacity, resources from other Government departments and a network of expertise from the academic community and knowledgeable individuals in Canada and abroad.

Canada also supports independent graduate-level research through several doctoral and masters-level research awards, offered in collaboration with the Simons Centre for Peace and Disarmament Studies at the University of British Columbia. The primary objective of these awards is to enhance Canadian graduate level scholarship on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. This signals the importance we attach the development of centres of excellence in this area.

Most recently, in partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada, my Government has sponsored the production of an education module intended for students and teachers at the secondary-school level. This project will be launched at Canadian high schools this year and will do much to promote close collaboration between disarmament experts and civil society, including young students, educators and academic institutions.

Mr. Mine (Japan): Sixty years ago, it took only a single, relatively primitive, atomic bomb to wreak devastation on an entire city. Nowadays, nuclear power is capable of far surpassing past tragedies and destruction, resulting in a far greater loss of life. Furthermore, with the emergence of terrorism and the potential use of nuclear weapons by terrorists, the urgency of increasing awareness of the real dangers posed by nuclear weapons has never been greater.

For this reason, Japan places the utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education. It is through such education that people gain a better understanding of the inhumane nature of such weapons and acquire the knowledge and skills to make contributions to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures. Education is an important yet under-utilized tool for strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation for future generations. It encourages critical thinking and attitudinal change so that the next generation can choose a culture of peace over violence and war.

It is encouraging to learn that various efforts have been made to date, both nationally and around the world, to raise public awareness of the dangers of such weapons, as well as of the need to further strengthen disarmament and non-proliferation measures. I am pleased to note that some useful activities have been taking place here in the United Nations in the margins of the First Committee during this session to share experiences in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education among Member States, international organizations, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and civil society.

The educational material used in one of these activities in particular caught my attention. It focuses on issues relating to the historical experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, including early post-war transcripts, visual documentation and artefacts from those atomic-bombed cities, as well as new teaching methodologies to help young people understand the nuclear legacy that we bequeath to them. Such opportunities can help us face the realities of history and give us hope that we can learn our lessons well.

Japan, for its part, has been making various efforts in this field. I would like to update the Committee on some of our recent efforts.

First, under the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme, Japan has been inviting

various Government officials to visit Japan each year since 1983. There have been about 500 participants to date. This year's participants — who have been with us here during the First Committee session — recently completed their visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which I hope helped to provide an insight into the reality of the atomic bombings.

Secondly, in July of this year, in the margins of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, held in Sapporo, Japan, a seminar on disarmament education was held with the participation of experts, teachers from local cities and members of international organizations and civil society, providing an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education among local educators.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been making various efforts to disseminate materials on its disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. An English version of Japan's disarmament and non-proliferation policy for this year has just been published, and copies are available just outside this Conference Room.

Fourthly, Japan has also become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53, submitted to the First Committee by Mexico, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education". Japan very much appreciates Mexico's initiative in this field.

Mr. Bonavia (Malta): Mr. Chairman, since I am taking the floor for the first time in this forum, allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to join others who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your assumption of the role of Chairman of the First Committee. My delegation seizes this opportunity to commend you for the manner in which you have conducted the proceedings of this Committee to date.

The First Committee is the platform in the annual session of the General Assembly in which all Member States are given the opportunity to discuss not only matters related to global disarmament but also urgent and pressing issues concerning international security, most particularly regional ones — which, needless to say, also involve the Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean region epitomizes many of the thorny and multifaceted problems related to socio-economic and political instability. Since our independence in 1964, Malta has striven hard to take a

proactive role in the endeavour to promote security and cooperation in that region. It was at Malta's insistence that in 1974 the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Helsinki, formally affirmed the inextricable link that exists between the Mediterranean and European security. Malta was then a neighbour bordering the European Community, seeking to place those problems firmly at the centre of the European Community's attention. It took well over two decades to witness a tangible manifestation of this principle with the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in 1995.

Malta is a firm believer in the initiatives and processes of inclusion that various organizations and institutions have set in motion in order to bridge the divide within this strategically divided area. Throughout the years, our active participation in and support of diverse Mediterranean institutions and initiatives — namely, the Mediterranean Action Plan, the MED Forum, the "5 + 5" process, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies — have been unflinching. We owe it to ourselves and to our neighbours to continue our quest for regional cooperation in this turbulent and volatile region. We will continue to give our due contribution to all regional forums and initiatives so as to strengthen cooperation and security in the Mediterranean region.

Foremost among those initiatives is the attempt to provide a comprehensive approach to the region through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership — better known as the Barcelona process — launched in 1995, when the foreign ministers of European Union (EU) member States and 12 Mediterranean countries met in Barcelona to draw up a declaration that established

"a comprehensive partnership among the participants ... through strengthened political dialogue on a regular basis, the development of economic and financial cooperation and greater emphasis on the social, cultural and human dimension, these being the three aspects of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership".

Malta believes that the Euro-Mediterranean Process is making an important contribution, and addressing the resolve, reducing the ever-widening economic and social gap, which for many years has been one of the destabilizing factors of the Mediterranean region. As a member of the EU, Malta

strongly supports this initiative, which offers new and innovative opportunities to reinforce the much-needed cooperation and collaboration between and among all Mediterranean States.

To a certain extent, this process has moved in the right direction. However, this has not been at the rhythm that was anticipated at the beginning. That could well be attributed to the troubled situation in the Middle East, with the problem of Palestine at its core, which unfortunately, has hampered the process. The tragic situation in that region remains one of the primary concerns of my Government, as highlighted by my Prime Minister in his statement to the General Assembly this year:

"Malta looks at the problem both from its tragic humanitarian dimension as well as from its far-reaching implications for peace and security. One important concern for us in that regard is the impact that the problem has on issues of peace and security in the Middle East in general and the Mediterranean area in particular." (A/59/PV.8, page 16)

In this regard, we feel that one must pursue every possible avenue to ensure that when the slightest possibility for a peaceful solution emerges, the parties and the international community at large will grasp the opportunity and spare no effort to guarantee a peaceful resolution to the long-standing problem of Palestine. We again call upon Israel and the Palestinian Authority to resolve their differences in a peaceful and just manner. As an EU member State, Malta considers itself to be a party to the Quartet and, therefore, committed to fully support the Middle East road map and any other initiative that leads to the peaceful resolution of the problem on the basis of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and recognized borders. We believe that only through constructive dialogue can an agreement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority be reached, thus ensuring a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the region.

My Government wholeheartedly welcomes the recent EU strategic partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East, which was formalized pursuant to intensive consultations at the European Council in June 2004. The objective of this strategic partnership is to promote the development of a common zone of peace, prosperity and progress in the Mediterranean and the

Middle East. It sets out a concrete policy agenda under which, through partnership, dialogue and recognizing diversities, the Union will seek to promote political reform, good governance, democracy and human rights; secondly, to stimulate trade and economic cooperation, economic liberalization and people-to-people contacts; and thirdly, to promote conflict prevention and resolution in the Mediterranean and the Middle East as well as measures to combat terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and illegal immigration. In this spirit, Malta considers that to an important extent this strategy is intertwined with the EU's Mediterranean strategy.

Malta also warmly welcomes Libya's decision to eliminate all material, equipment and programmes that lead to the production of weapons of mass destruction. We commend Libya's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its signature of and decision to implement the Additional Protocol. We urge Libya to continue its good cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in implementing its decision. Libya's decision to play its rightful role in the international community is most certainly a further positive step that will contribute to peace, security and stability in the Mediterranean region. These positive developments are of great significance to the future of the Mediterranean. The active participation of Libya in the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Process would be particularly welcome in this connection.

Moreover, my Government attaches great importance to the development and strengthening wherever possible, of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, based on arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region. Needless to say, such zones enhance global and regional peace and security and promote nuclear disarmament, stability and confidence. We emphasize the importance of the concept of zones free of weapons of mass destruction, indeed both nuclear and other, and their means of delivery. With the ultimate goal of strengthening peace and security in the Mediterranean region by way of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, we strongly urge all States in that area to establish an effectively verifiable zone free of nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Let me conclude by underscoring that as a member of the European Union Malta will remain deeply committed to maintaining its role as a proactive force for peace, stability and prosperity in all the relevant forums and will earnestly seek to ensure that Mediterranean issues are always given the importance they deserve on the agenda of the EU and other international organizations. Malta's accession to the EU will complement our deep and sustained engagement with Mediterranean issues and add further texture and depth to the Union's knowledge and appreciation of the region's intricate politics and sensitivities.

Mr. Lew Kwang-chul (Republic of Korea): I would like to touch briefly on the issue of missiles. The proliferation of missiles in general, and of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction in particular, constitutes one of the most serious and complex international security challenges today.

Despite various efforts of the international community to address the problems related to missiles, there is as yet no instrument to deal with this issue at the global level. In our view that is particularly because a State held divergent views on missiles, based on its own national and regional security needs. Thus, it will be extremely difficult to build a comprehensive and universal instrument covering all types of missiles and aspects of missile-related activities. However, we note that as a result of continuous efforts on the part of the international community, particularly in recent years, some progress has been made in this field.

The Republic of Korea fully supports the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. We are of the view that the Hague Code of Conduct can serve as a global non-proliferation norm-building initiative by promoting responsible behaviour of States in the field of ballistic missiles. Through its transparency and confidence-building measures, we believe that the Hague Code of Conduct will be able to complement and reinforce other measures already existing at the national, regional and multilateral levels.

We also support Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which addresses serious concerns about the danger of non-State actors gaining access not only to weapons of mass destruction but also to their means of delivery. While we recognize that the nexus between

terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has become one of the most pressing security concerns facing the international community today, we are of the view that a level of consideration no less serious should be given to the danger of missiles falling into the wrong hands.

We welcome the various initiatives to reduce the uncontrolled spread of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS). In that regard, we welcome the expansion of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to include MANPADS as a subcategory under the existing category of missiles and missile-launchers. We also welcome the valuable discussions that have taken place within the framework of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the G-8, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum to reduce the danger posed by MANPADS.

The vital role of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in curbing missile proliferation through export control cannot be underestimated. We are pleased to report that the plenary meetings of MTCR, held in Seoul earlier this month, were successful. As the current Chair of the MTCR, we will continue to do our utmost to promote its cause.

Lastly, we regret that the second United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Missiles in All Their Aspects failed to adopt a substantive report this year. However, we note that the discussion itself was useful, as it covered a variety of aspects of missile-related problems in great depth and in full detail.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We have exhausted the list of speakers for this afternoon. However, in view of the short time we have left, I would like to suggest that we continue with the informal interactive dialogue, with the support of Ambassador Rivas of Colombia, next Monday, rather than right now. All the more since I must now read out some information related to the voting process, and in any case, if we can save even 5 or 10 minutes now I think we will have gained thereby.

Returning to the information that I think it is important for the Committee to know, I note that next week we will begin the third and final phase of our work with the adoption of decisions on all the draft resolutions and decisions before us related to agenda

items 57 to 72. In that regard, I would like to draw attention to document A/C.1/59/CRP.3, in which the draft resolutions are clustered thematically and which has been previously circulated to all delegations.

On Tuesday, 26 October, the Committee will begin its work by taking action on the draft resolutions in cluster one, namely, nuclear weapons. With the cooperation of all the members of the Committee and in accordance with past practice and precedent, I intend to proceed as efficiently as possible from one cluster to another as decisions are taken on each. Nevertheless, while following that procedure, the Committee will maintain a certain degree of flexibility.

It is also my intention to follow last year's precedent in proceeding with voting on draft resolutions. Consequently, during the decision-making stage on each thematic cluster delegations will first have an opportunity to introduce revised draft resolutions relating to that cluster. Next, delegations that so wish may make statements or general comments other than explanations of vote. Finally, delegations may speak in explanation of vote on the thematic clusters under consideration. Thereafter, once the Committee has heard those statements of a general nature, as well as the explanations of vote before the vote on an entire thematic cluster, we will proceed to take action on all the draft resolutions successively and without interruption. In other words, delegations can explain in one single statement their position or their vote on all the draft resolutions related to a single thematic cluster on which decisions are being taken.

It is my intention, with the assistance and cooperation of all members, to follow this procedure strictly in order to make the most of the time and resources allocated to the Committee. I am sure that the members of the Committee will fully concur with me in that respect. Therefore, I appeal to all delegations to kindly observe that procedure and to avoid any interruptions once voting on a given thematic cluster of draft resolutions has begun.

Once the Committee has taken a decision on all the draft resolutions and decisions related to a given cluster, those delegations wishing to explain their positions or votes after the vote may do so. However, as in the case of explanations of vote before the vote, they should do so in a single statement and only after we have voted on all the proposals on that cluster.

I would also like to stress that, in accordance with the rules of procedure, countries presenting or sponsoring draft resolutions are not permitted to make any statements or explanations of vote either before or after the voting. Nevertheless, they can make statements of a general nature on any thematic cluster at the beginning of the meeting. However, I would like to discourage the exercise of that right as much as possible, since general comments quite often become a repetition of the general debate, and I would therefore urge delegations to make use of that possibility only when absolutely necessary. I refer particularly to countries that have co-sponsored draft resolutions that are going to be or have already been presented or introduced in the meetings this week.

To avoid any misunderstandings or — perhaps more accurately — simply in order to better organize our work, I would strongly urge delegations that wish to have a recorded vote on a particular draft resolution to kindly inform the Committee secretariat as soon as possible and, in any case, before the Committee begins to vote in the meeting in which the draft resolution concerned is to be considered.

Finally, with respect to the postponement or delay of action on any draft resolution, I would also urge all delegations to inform the Committee secretariat as soon as possible, preferably at least one day before action on the draft resolution in question is scheduled, so that we can better programme and schedule our meetings.

With the Committee's permission, I intend to follow the procedure outlined. I do not think we are innovating here. It is a procedure that worked well at the fifty-eighth session, and therefore I think there will not be any difficulties with it for the Committee.

I would also like to remind the Committee that on Monday, 25 October — in addition to finishing with both the interactive dialogue and the introduction of resolutions on other matters related to disarmament and international security, including disarmament and non-proliferation education — I hope to engage in an informal dialogue with all delegations in this same room, making use of conference services, in order to continue our discussions on the question of reform and revitalization of the First Committee. I hope, therefore, as we had anticipated at this meeting, that delegations sponsoring draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.1 and L.13 will be in a position to report substantial progress. For

my part, I trust that I will also have some concrete suggestions on the programme of work for the sixtieth session so that we can begin consideration of that document.

Before closing, the representative of Nigeria has requested to speak. I give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Udedibia (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, may I apologize for taking the floor at this time. I simply to seek a clarification or confirmation that delegations

that wish to introduce resolutions on Monday will still be able to do so.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Yes. I thank the representative of Nigeria for his question; I think it is very important. Monday, during the formal meeting delegations can introduce any remaining draft resolutions without restrictions. As soon as we conclude the interactive dialogue with Ambassador Rivas, we will proceed to the introduction of draft resolutions.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

16th meeting

Monday, 25 October 2004, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

Chairman: Mr. De Alba

(Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda items 57 to 72 (continued)

Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): In order to take advantage of the presence of Ambassador José Nicolás Rivas of Colombia, this afternoon we shall begin with an informal discussion. We will then resume our formal meeting to hear introductions of draft resolutions on remaining agenda items. We shall then return to an informal format to take up matters related to the Committee's working methods.

I shall now suspend the formal part of our meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 3.10 p.m. and resumed at 3.55 p.m.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1.

Mr. Aye (Myanmar): I am taking the floor on behalf of Ambassador U Mya Than, the current President of the Conference on Disarmament, in order to introduce to the First Committee the report of the Conference on its work during the 2004 session and to introduce the corresponding draft resolution. Much as U Mya Than would have liked to follow the customary

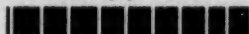
practice of introducing both documents himself, circumstances have compelled him to be in Geneva at this time.

The report of the Conference on Disarmament, which has been issued as document A/59/27, contains a factual summary of the Conference's work during the 2004 session. The report indicates, *inter alia*, that this year, new avenues have been pursued to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament. From the very beginning of the session, the successive Presidents, with the encouragement of all members of the Conference, initiated a series of consultations aimed at facilitating consensus on a programme of work that could consequently lead to the commencement of substantive work of the conference. Those consultations helped considerably in launching a series of informal plenary meetings on the issue of the Conference's agenda, on new and additional issues related to the agenda and on ways and means of facilitating agreement on a programme of work. Consequently, after many years of mainly procedural debates, the Conference became engaged in substantive discussions, which were generally recognized as useful and constructive.

The Conference also benefited considerably from the high-level segment of its debate, a period during which six Foreign Ministers and one Minister of State for Foreign Affairs addressed it in plenary meeting. All of those distinguished dignitaries expressed concerns over the stalemate in the Conference. However, at the same time, they also extended support to the Conference and reiterated its role as the single

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

04-56889 (E)



multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament.

The Conference also considered possible ways of enhancing the engagement of civil society in its work. Following intensive consultations, the Conference adopted a decision to that effect, which is forward-looking and evolutive, and which opens new vistas for increasing interaction.

Despite those commendable developments, the Conference did not reach a necessary breakthrough which could have led to the establishment of subsidiary bodies on specific items on its agenda. However, as the report indicates, towards the end of the session, delegations shared a general feeling that the Conference should intensify its consultations and explore new possibilities with a view to reaching an agreement on a programme of work that would allow the substantive work to commence early in the 2005 session. In order to facilitate that task, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, including those submitted as documents of the Conference on Disarmament, views presented and discussions held. Moreover, the Conference also requested both current and incoming Presidents to endeavour to keep the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the draft resolution on the report of the Conference on Disarmament, contained in document A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1. This draft resolution maintains, in general, the traditional structure of resolutions on the subject, which were adopted without a vote at previous sessions of the General Assembly. Needless to say, the draft resolution contains references to some new developments and to main achievements of the Conference during its 2004 session, including the decision on the enhanced engagement of civil society in the work of the Conference.

The draft resolution gives general guidance for setting the stage for the 2005 session. In particular, paragraph 4 welcomes the decision of the Conference to request both the current and incoming Presidents to conduct consultations during the intersessional period, and if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, as well as to endeavour

to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations. Moreover, Conference member States are requested to cooperate with the Presidents so that such joint efforts prepare the ground for the early commencement of the substantive work of the Conference at its next session.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all delegations for their trust in the Myanmar presidency and for the flexibility they demonstrated in order to reach agreement. A special word of appreciation goes also to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Enrique Roman-Morey, who rendered assistance in a most professional manner in this endeavour.

In introducing this draft resolution, Ambassador U Mya Than, in his capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, remains determined to continue to meet with the incoming President, Ambassador Christiaan Sanders of the Netherlands, and to engage in consultations involving all interested delegations with a view to reaching early consensus on the outstanding issues, thus helping the members of the Conference to commence substantive work at the beginning of the 2005 session.

The President of the Conference expresses his deep appreciation to all delegations for the cooperation and the spirit of flexibility they demonstrated during his entire tenure. He is of the view that the Conference on Disarmament still has the potential to fulfil its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and that the draft resolution that is before us will provide a new stimulus to the commencement of the substantive work of the Conference.

Therefore, he recommends that the draft resolution contained in A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1 be adopted without a vote.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.35.

Mr. Maandi (Algeria) (spoke in French): It is a great pleasure for me to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", contained in document A/C.1/59/L.35, on behalf of the sponsors: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and my country, Algeria.

The regular introduction of draft resolutions on this item by the group of sponsors is eloquent testimony to the thinking that prevails among the majority of the countries of the region and to their commitment to making it a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. Our joint will to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean area originates from — and finds its strength in — the many ties woven by history and by membership of a geographical area with strong, highly developed traditions of exchanges among peoples. The common destiny of the peoples of the region has made a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue important and necessary. This dialogue must continue to develop through increased joint initiatives to make the Mediterranean a sea of peace and cooperation. The 1995 Barcelona Conference on a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership recognized the special nature of Euro-Mediterranean relations and the need for collective action in order to eliminate misunderstandings and to reduce inequalities and imbalances in the Mediterranean region.

The draft resolution that the sponsors are submitting for consideration by the First Committee is similar to the previous session's resolution and deals with a broad range of matters linked to the strengthening of security and of Mediterranean cooperation. It emphasizes the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and recalls all the initiatives undertaken by the Mediterranean countries to strengthen peace, security and cooperation.

It reaffirms the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

The draft also emphasizes the fundamental principles according to which the efforts of the

countries of the Mediterranean are to be carried out to eliminate all causes of tension in the region and to peacefully resolve, on a lasting basis, all persistent problems of the region. It also emphasizes that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and the promotion of mutual respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among the countries of the region.

In the area of disarmament, the text calls on all States of the region that have not yet done so to adhere to all multilateral legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and calls on all States to promote confidence-building measures, openness and transparency.

All States of the Mediterranean are also encouraged further to strengthen their cooperation in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating organized crime, illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production and trafficking, which pose a threat to peace and stability.

The sponsors remain confident that, as at previous sessions, with the valuable support of all the members of the Committee, the draft will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. Udedibia (Nigeria): On behalf of 100 sponsoring States, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.4, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament was launched in 1979 as a follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session, in 1978. The programme is aimed at promoting expertise in the field of disarmament among Member States, particularly in developing countries. The programme has succeeded in developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows so that they can participate more effectively in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations at all levels.

The Programme has trained 645 officials from 152 States since it was launched in 1979, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of

disarmament within their own Governments and their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, New York and Vienna. It is also gratifying to observe that a number of alumni of the fellowship programme are representatives of their Governments at this session of the First Committee. Special mention must be made of the Rapporteur of the Committee, who, as an alumnus of the programme, is already applying the skills acquired from such training only last year in the service of the Bureau and the Committee.

It is gratifying to note that the fellowship programme on disarmament was identified by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services as the most successful United Nations training programme it had reviewed.

The draft resolution considers the decision of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it was decided to continue the programme.

It also considers that the programme has continued to contribute significantly to developing better awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in the field of disarmament at all levels. We are pleased to have current fellows with us here observing our deliberations.

The draft resolution also notes that the programme has trained a large number of officials from Member States throughout its 26 years of existence, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments, and recognizes the need for Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme. It further considers that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral.

In substantive terms, the draft resolution reaffirms the decisions of the General Assembly contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the report of the Secretary-General approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978.

In the draft resolution, the General Assembly expresses its appreciation to all Member States and to organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success, in particular to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme, and to the Government of the United States of America for organizing a presentation for fellows in the area of disarmament.

It also expresses its appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Monterey Institute of International Studies for having organized specific study programmes in the field of disarmament in their respective areas of competence, thereby contributing to the objectives of the programme.

Finally, the draft resolution commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out and requests him to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources.

The draft resolution is essentially the same as the one submitted at the fifty-seventh session, when it was last considered. The draft resolution has always been adopted by consensus in the past. It is the wish of the sponsors that it be similarly adopted at this session.

Mr. Ahmad-Meza (Pakistan): I have asked for the floor to introduce Pakistan's draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.1, entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

The maintenance of peace and security at the global level is in many ways contingent on stability at the regional and subregional levels. Instability at the regional and subregional contributes to the arms race and undermines efforts aimed at arms control and

disarmament. It obstructs the peaceful settlement of disputes, thus rendering their resolution even more difficult; it widens poverty and spreads despair and anger.

In submitting a similar draft resolution for the first time last year, the Pakistan delegation was guided by the universally acknowledged usefulness of confidence-building measures in many regions and subregions of the world, including South Asia. Pakistan remains convinced that the initiation of such confidence-building measures has rendered and can continue to render tangible peace dividends, avoid conflict, facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes and allow States to devote their resources and energies to the socio-economic advancement of their peoples. Such an approach could also supplement arms control and disarmament efforts, since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise among States located in the same region or subregion.

We have taken a careful look at the views expressed by Member States on this draft resolution and have also engaged constructively with delegations. Accordingly, draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.1 has been revised vis-à-vis last year's text. In its preambular part, it continues to reiterate the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to cite General Assembly and Security Council resolutions related to the prevention of armed conflict.

The draft resolution recognizes the need for peaceful dialogue to avert conflict. It welcomes the peace processes already initiated in various regions to resolve disputes through peaceful means, bilaterally or through mediation by third parties. It also recognizes that regions that have already developed confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, have greatly improved the climate of peace and security in their regions and have contributed to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of their people.

The operative part of the draft resolution calls upon Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force and reaffirms the Assembly's commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter.

In paragraph 3, a reference to the ways and means regarding confidence-building measures contained in the 1993 report of the United Nations Disarmament

Commission has been added to this year's revised draft resolution. The draft resolution calls upon Member States to pursue those ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue. It urges strict compliance with bilateral, regional and international arms control and disarmament agreements to which the contending States are parties. It also urges that confidence-building measures should contribute to the objectives of strategic stability, encourages the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures to avoid conflict and prevent unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

My delegation hopes that the revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.1 will be adopted with the full consent of the Committee.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1.

Mr. Baldi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have asked for the floor to introduce the newly revised text of the draft resolution, entitled "Missiles", contained in document A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1.

Following the submission of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6, we have had extensive consultations on the text. Various views were expressed on improving the text, which we considered in depth, particularly with respect to their implications on the whole process of addressing missiles in all their aspects within the United Nations. The discussions were concentrated in particular on paragraph 2, which requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, with the support of qualified consultants and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, on areas where consensus can be reached, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. Some Member States were of the belief that, in preparing such a study, the views of Member States should be taken into account. Although, in our view, the original formulation implied that the views of Member States were required to be taken into account — since the study intends to concentrate on the areas of consensus among Member States — we felt that it would be clearer and stronger if such an element appeared in the language of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

In this newly revised text of the draft resolution, paragraph 2, therefore, begins as follows.

"Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, with the support of qualified consultants and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as appropriate, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, to contribute to the United Nations endeavour ...".

We have merely inserted the phrase, "taking into account the views expressed by Member States". With that addition, we are happy to have reached a better understanding among the parties involved, and we hope that full support will be given to the revised draft resolution.

Mr. Hameed (Iraq) (spoke in Arabic): The delegation of the Republic of Iraq wishes, first of all, to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. We are convinced that, along with the other members of the Bureau, you will be able to guide our Committee's deliberations in a manner that will lead to success. It is an honour for me to speak in this forum on behalf of my country, Iraq.

I want to convey the image of a new Iraq, one which is interested in scientific research for peaceful purposes in the service of people and their societies. The international community has welcomed the creation of the Interim Iraqi Government, which in its political statements has committed itself to respecting all international conventions and treaties. The Interim Government has also confirmed Iraq's intention to participate effectively as observer in meetings of committees related to weapons treaties and conventions to which Iraq is not party. We are also voluntarily committed to respecting the provisions of such conventions until we become a full party to them.

The delegation of Iraq supports all efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament at the regional and subregional levels. In particular, we

support initiatives relating to guaranteeing full respect for disarmament treaties, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We emphasize the need to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone and an area free from weapons of mass destruction, in order that we may have a just peace in the region.

Many innocent Iraqi civilians have been the victims of terrorist attacks intended to sow panic and fear among the civilian population and to create a climate of anarchy and instability. Such acts are not in conformity with any divine law; for that reason, Iraq calls on the members of the First Committee to expedite the adoption of a draft resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring, developing or producing weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles. We also emphasize the need for all States to comply with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq supports the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In that regard, I would like to express our support for draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.14, introduced by Malaysia on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement. That draft resolution will make it possible for us to establish an agenda devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): That concludes the second phase of the Committee's work. In accordance with the Committee's work and timetable, tomorrow we shall begin the third and final phase of our work, namely, action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under agenda items 57 to 72.

I now intend to adjourn the formal part of this meeting in order to utilize the remaining time to return informally to issues of improving the Committee's working methods and generally revitalizing its work.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

17th meeting

Tuesday, 26 October 2004, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Chairman: Mr. De Alba (Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Agenda items 57 to 72 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Before beginning our third stage, decision taking, I give the floor to Under-Secretary-General Abe, who has an announcement to make.

Mr. Abe (Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs): I wish to call attention to the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to the Secretary-General, which has just been published in booklet form; copies have been distributed in the Conference Room. It is the product of the work of the Advisory Board, chaired by Mr. Harald Müller, and it addresses a number of recommendations to the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. The Panel will of course be addressing questions of international security, especially in relation to disarmament and non-proliferation, and the Advisory Board therefore considered it appropriate to offer its thoughts and advice to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the High-Level Panel. The booklet contains a list of the members of the Advisory Board, so readers can see who worked on the report.

The report makes interesting reading, and I hope that members will have time to study it.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolutions listed in informal working paper 1 circulated yesterday, starting with cluster 1, "Nuclear weapons". After having taken action on the draft resolutions and draft decisions in cluster 1, the Committee will proceed to act on those contained in cluster 2 and so forth.

Allow me first to recall that delegations will be invited to take the floor to make general comments or to explain their positions only at the beginning of the consideration of a thematic cluster and subsequently to offer explanations of vote or position only when we have taken action on all draft resolutions and draft decisions under that cluster. We will thus not be able to interrupt the voting process between draft resolutions for statements of that kind.

I would also like to remind delegations that sponsors of draft resolutions may make general statements at the beginning of a cluster, as I indicated, but may not speak in explanation of vote or position.

On that understanding, we shall now begin our consideration of cluster 1, "Nuclear weapons".

Let me first inform the Committee that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56 have asked that it not be considered at this meeting.

It is also my understanding that amendments will be proposed to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. In that connection, may I take it that the Committee wishes to consider oral amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 and to take action on it today, without a

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



24-hour delay for the proposed amendments to be put into writing and translated?

It was so decided.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): We shall thus return to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 later in the meeting.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to make a brief general comment on cluster 1, "Nuclear weapons". A number of the draft resolutions under this cluster make reference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). In that connection, we would like to stress that Cuba rejects the selective application of the NPT, taking the view that issues linked to nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy cannot go on being relegated to the back burner while special attention is devoted to horizontal non-proliferation. The Cuban Government, over time, has taken additional steps that clearly reflect Cuba's decision to comply expeditiously with all its obligations as a State party to both these treaties. My delegation made detailed reference to this issue when we spoke in the general debate of this Committee.

As regards votes on texts under this particular cluster, my delegation reaffirms that we will continue, on a case by case basis, evaluating how we will vote, mindful of the overall balance within each draft resolution, and acting on the premise that, for Cuba, achieving complete nuclear disarmament under a strict and effective international verification system is the top priority with regard to disarmament.

Mr. Rivasseau (France) (*spoke in French*): I am taking the floor on behalf of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to make a brief comment. Draft decision A/C.1/59/L.15 relates to a subject that is also taken up in draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.41. For the sake of efficiency, we will wait to present our substantive comments on this subject until our consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.41.

Mr. Abushahab (United Arab Emirates): The progress achieved by the international community in the disarmament of nuclear weapons and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies has not met expectations. The issue of nuclear disarmament

continues to be the primary concern of this Committee, especially since some nuclear States continue to maintain their nuclear facilities and arsenals and to improve the transport methods of those weapons. Furthermore, since the end of the cold war, other countries, on the pretext of national defence requirements have striven to acquire, manufacture, develop and carry out experiments on those weapons.

The United Arab Emirates has closely followed the increasing gap between the nuclear-weapon States, which strive to develop their nuclear arsenals, and the non-nuclear-weapon States, which call for dismantling nuclear weapons and using these technologies for peaceful purposes. The United Arab Emirates is deeply concerned about the non-compliance of some countries with the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which represents the cornerstone of international efforts aimed at promoting universal disarmament of strategic weapons and strengthening vertical and horizontal systems of non-proliferation.

The United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to regional and global efforts aimed at strengthening the disarmament and NPT regimes as a strategy for peace, security and confidence-building. We renew our call to the international community for its active participation in establishing a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf.

In that context, we urge Member States to take effective measures to compel Israel, the sole country in the Middle East that has not acceded to the NPT, to immediately do so and to dismantle its dangerous nuclear facilities after fully subjecting them to the supervision and safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We also appeal to other States of the region that are pursuing nuclear testing or the acquisition of similar weapons to reconsider their position, pursuant to the relevant legitimate international resolutions.

The United Arab Emirates' sponsorship of the draft resolutions on nuclear danger and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East reflects its strong belief that peace, security, stability and sustainable development are legitimate rights of all peoples and States without exception.

To achieve the goals of complete disarmament, all Member States must comply with the international

legislation adopted in that regard, in order to promote the principles of confidence-building, peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness. To that end, the United Arab Emirates urges all members of the Committee to support the two draft resolutions on "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" and "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", contained in documents A/C.1/59/L.8 and A/C.1/59/L.37 respectively, for they address the alarming situation in the Middle East and contribute to the global efforts aimed at achieving complete disarmament in order to avoid the scourge of war and the destruction of mankind.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call now on those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of vote or position before the Committee takes action on draft resolutions and draft decisions under cluster 1, with the exception of: draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1 — with respect to which a statement by the Secretariat is in preparation — and A/C.1/59/L.50, to which we will return later in this meeting; and draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56, action upon which has been deferred at the request of the sponsors.

Mr. Bar (Israel): Israel will join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.8, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East", as it has done on similar texts for more than 20 years, notwithstanding substantive and important reservations regarding certain elements in the draft resolution.

The policy of Israel has always maintained that the nuclear issue, as well as all regional security issues, conventional and non-conventional, should be dealt with in the context of the peace process. Israel supports the eventual establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East that should also be free of chemical and biological weapons as well as ballistic missiles.

Israel believes that the political realities in the Middle East mandate a practical step-by-step approach that should begin with modest confidence-building measures, followed by the establishment of peaceful relations and reconciliation and possibly complemented by conventional and non-conventional arms control measures. That process could eventually lead to the attainment of more ambitious goals, such as establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

As the international community has recognized, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should be based on arrangements freely arrived at among all the States in the region concerned. Israel believes that such a zone can only be established through direct negotiations among the States in the region, after they have recognized one another and have established full peaceful and diplomatic relations among themselves. It cannot be established in a situation where some of the States maintain that they are in a state of war with each other and refuse in principle to maintain peaceful relations with Israel or even to recognize its right to exist.

In that context, it should be recalled that in the Middle East, unlike in other regions in the world where nuclear-weapon-free zones have been established, there are continuing threats, in the region and beyond, against the very existence of one State, Israel. Those threats are multiplied by the reckless behaviour of some States concerning the export of weapons of mass destruction and related technologies, and the discrepancies between the commitments of those States and their actual behaviour.

Those circumstances and the acknowledged record of non-compliance with international obligations by certain States have a critical impact on the region's ability to embark on a joint process of regional security and security-building that could eventually lead to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Israel has recently reiterated its vision of promoting a regional peace and stability that should facilitate, among other things, the eventual establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone. At the same time, Israel has made it clear that it harbours no illusions that progress towards realizing that vision can be made without a fundamental change in regional circumstances, not least in the attitude of States in the region towards Israel. We thus propose that our current efforts be directed at learning from the experience of other regions about the prerequisites for making progress in this area.

In our view, efforts in the context of this draft resolution should be focused on the creation of a stable environment of peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. Israel will continue to dedicate all its efforts to achieving that goal. We call upon our neighbours to do the same.

Mr. Heinsberg (Germany): I would like to explain our vote on the draft decision submitted by Mexico in document A/C.1/59/L.15, concerning the holding of a United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament. Like Mexico, which put forward that draft decision, Germany also sympathizes with the sense of urgency and the disappointment at the slow pace of progress that underlie the proposal to convene a United Nations conference. We reaffirm our determination to contribute to the implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The NPT is a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

We particularly stress the need for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT, as agreed upon at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. The implementation of those 13 steps requires focused efforts. Nothing should detract from the obligations undertaken by the parties to the NPT. We therefore consider the pursuit of those efforts within the context of the NPT process leading up to the next review conference, in 2005, to be of key importance.

Likewise, we deem it of utmost urgency to overcome the deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. I would like to reiterate that Germany calls for the immediate start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

In the light of those priorities, and with a view to not undermining the NPT process and the Conference on Disarmament, which is the single multilateral negotiating forum in the area of disarmament, we do not consider it appropriate at this juncture to convene a United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament. We were therefore not in a position to support draft decisions in this regard in previous years. However, unlike last year, and recognizing the concerns underlying the draft decision, we have

decided not to vote against the draft decision this year, but rather to abstain.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): There are no further speakers in explanation of vote or position. We shall therefore proceed to take action, first, on draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.8, A/C.1/59/L.29 and A/C.1/59/L.30 and on draft decisions A/C.1/59/L.7 and A/C.1/59/L.15.

I remind members that we will later take action on draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/L.50. We shall now take a decision on draft decision A/C.1/59/L.7. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft decision A/C.1/59/L.7, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia". The draft decision was introduced by the representative of Uzbekistan at the Committee's 11th meeting, which was held on 19 October 2004. The list of sponsors of the draft decision is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.7.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft decision have expressed the wish that the draft decision be adopted without a vote.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee intends to proceed accordingly.

The draft decision was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.8 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.8, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October 2004. The list of sponsors of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.8.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.8 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft decision A/C.1/59/L.15, entitled "United Nations Conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft decision A/C.1/59/L.15, entitled "United Nations Conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament".

The draft decision was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October 2004. The list of sponsors of the draft decision is contained in document A/C.1/59/L.15.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay,

Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

France, Israel, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu

Draft decision A/C.1/59/L.15 was adopted by 119 votes to 6, with 41 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in A/C.1/59/L.29, entitled "Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.29, entitled "Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October. The list of sponsors of the draft is contained in documents A/C.1/59/L.29 and A/C.1/59/INF.2. In addition, Papua New Guinea has now become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Korea,

Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.29 was adopted by 111 votes to 46, with 12 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.30, entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.30, entitled "Reducing nuclear danger". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.30 and A/C.1/59/INF.2. In addition, Papua New Guinea has now become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates,

United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Ecuador, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.30 was adopted by 106 votes to 46, with 16 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation".

I call on the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Issa (Egypt): I will speak in English so as to avoid confusion. I believe that amendments have been submitted to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. Hence, I believe that, under the rules of procedure, we need to wait until they have been printed and circulated.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Earlier, I noted that amendments proposed in writing would require 24 hours for translation and circulation, and it was agreed that they would be proposed orally and that action would be taken at this meeting. At the same time, I have ascertained that the sponsors of the draft resolution would not object to a 24-hour delay if this were requested — although here I would ask that any amendments to be submitted in writing be submitted today.

Mr. Issa (Egypt): It had been our understanding that the amendments would be circulated in written

form and that no action would be taken on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 today.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): It is my understanding that it is for the sponsors of a draft resolution to decide whether written amendments are necessary.

Mr. Baeldi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): Before turning to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, let me note that we had been told that the Secretariat statement on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1 would be ready today and that the Committee would be able to take action on that draft resolution at the present meeting. I hope that continues to be the case.

Turning to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, my understanding was the same as that of my colleague from Egypt; when the Chairman spoke earlier about oral amendments, we thought that there might be amendments to be introduced in addition to those that exist in writing. But the sponsors could not coordinate among themselves, because time was short and the point was not very clear. I think the reality is that written amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 exist, and it is very logical that members need to take a look at those amendments, since they have implications. Certainly, we do not see any point in rushing into a decision, because we have time. We should allow delegations to see the amendments, to think about them and to consult their capitals. Then we could have sufficient consultations and discussions. Surely, a decision on the draft resolution could be deferred to a better time, when delegations are ready. So I think it is very logical that we give delegations at least the minimum time frame under the rules of procedure in which to study the amendments first.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): As for the first point raised by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, relating to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, I can confirm that the Secretariat will be in a position to make its oral statement at this meeting.

With regard to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, my concern was to respect the right of the sponsors to have the 24 hours specified by the rules to familiarize themselves with the amendments. As they agreed not to wait the 24 hours, I asked the Committee, and we proceeded accordingly. But if there is a request — and there was originally no request — on the part of those proposing amendments to wait 24 hours, I believe we

should now hear from the representative of Chile, as the main sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

Mr. Maquieira (Chile): I apologize to you, Mr. Chairman, and to my other Spanish-speaking colleagues, but I feel that I should speak in English under these circumstances.

The 114 sponsors came to the decision that draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 is not open for amendment, and we are submitting it as it stands for adoption by the First Committee. I repeat: it is not open for amendment. Delegations have the right to submit amendments if they want to do so; sponsors have the privilege of considering whether or not such amendments are appropriate for a draft. But here, there has been a collective decision by the 114 sponsors not to open the draft resolution for amendment.

Therefore, I would kindly request that we proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. If delegations are not prepared to support the text as it stands, they have options when it comes to voting. But, as I said on behalf of the sponsors, the draft resolution is not open for amendment.

Mr. Baeldi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): With all due respect, I cannot agree with my colleague from Chile that the sponsors have decided that this draft resolution is not open for amendment. It is the Committee that decides whether or not a draft is open for amendment. The sponsors can decide not to change the draft resolution as initially proposed. But then the draft resolution is put to the vote, and the Committee decides whether or not it is open for amendment. If amendments are adopted, the draft resolution has been amended; if they are not, it means that the Committee has decided not to amend the initial draft resolution.

This involves a very basic rule of procedure of the General Assembly. Written amendments have been formally submitted to the Secretariat. I believe the basic principle here is that we want all delegations to be able to consider those amendments. Then, once the minimum time period indicated in the rules of procedure has passed, we will certainly be prepared to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I should like to indicate very clearly that I broadly agree with the delegations of both Chile and Iran: it is up to the Committee, not to the sponsors, to decide whether or not a draft resolution is to be amended. We agree on

that. I am aware of the sponsors' intention not to consider any amendments, but I also believe that there is logic in not postponing consideration of this item — at least not for too long.

In the rules of procedure — the Secretariat can correct me if I am mistaken — a 24-hour period is provided, not for amendments, but for original proposals; amendments can be made in written or oral form until the last minute before a vote. In other words, we are not obligated to wait 24 hours, but we could consider a formal request by the sponsors to wait 24 hours. In that case, I would not only have to put this in the hands of the sponsors, but, in case there was no agreement among the sponsors, I would have to put it to a vote, because, from the perspective of the rules, I repeat: there is no obligation to wait 24 hours for an amendment to be duly translated into the six official languages and published. If I am mistaken, the Secretariat will correct me.

Therefore, I ask members — particularly the delegation of Chile — if there is any objection to granting the 24 hours that the sponsors of the proposals are requesting. I had already introduced a motion that the amendments should be accepted orally; Chile is entitled to reject the request outright.

Mr. Maquieira (Chile) (spoke in Spanish): The logical outcome of the sponsors' position on the text is to avoid wasting the Committee's time. Therefore, on behalf of the sponsors, my delegation would prefer that action be taken now on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. Those who do not like the draft resolution have voting options to show their position. But it would be a waste of the Committee's time to wait for amendments that would be rejected by the sponsors 24 hours later. Therefore, I request that we proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I ask the sponsors of the amendments whether they have any objection to our taking a decision today. I take it there is no such objection.

Mr. Issa (Egypt): I listened carefully to the representative of Chile, and I believe that, in addition to the sponsors, the balance of the membership of the Committee needs to have a say with regard to the amendments that have been submitted on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 so that they can take a decision with regard to voting, both on the amendments and on the draft resolution. I believe that

a decision to proceed to a vote would also need to be taken by the Committee if we are to discard the amendments. But, Mr. Chairman, before the First Committee is essentially propelled into such a procedural vote, may I suggest a suspension of the meeting for five minutes?

Mr. Maquieira (Chile) (spoke in Spanish): I regret that this seems extremely complex, but actually it is very simple. The only activity in which there is any justification for prolonging agony is bullfighting. If the representative of Egypt wishes to request a motion whereby we would decide whether or not to take action, I accept the introduction of such a motion. If he wishes to proceed to an immediate vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, I am also prepared for that. What I do not understand is the objective of suspending the meeting, and I am not in favour of such a suspension.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Returning to the rules of procedure, there are two issues before us now on which I think we need to be clear. A vote can take place today. Of that there can be no doubt. I also think it is valid that all delegations should familiarize themselves with the amendments. Many of us, including the Chair, are talking about amendments we have not had a chance to see in black and white. In that regard, I am appealing to members' common sense and asking for the kind of flexibility that the representative of Chile demonstrated so that the Committee can save time.

I will ask members to agree to defer our consideration of this item until first thing tomorrow afternoon, by which time we will have the written version of the amendments. I ask that more in a spirit of conciliation than in conformity with any strict rule. If the representative of Chile wants to insist on our taking a decision, I will put to the vote the motion for a 24-hour postponement of the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 and amendments thereto. Indeed, in approximately 15 minutes we could have the benefit of the presence of the Legal Counsel, who could confirm whether the Chairman has been accurate in his interpretation. But, in order to avoid a procedural vote, I would appeal to delegations to allow us to consider this item tomorrow.

Mr. Köfler (Austria): Mr. Chairman, I tried to listen very carefully when you explained how you wanted to proceed this afternoon. Of course, I listened

in Spanish and perhaps I misunderstood you. But I recall that you wanted to consider draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 subsequently to action on other draft resolutions. If I understood you correctly, you specifically stated that you intended to proceed to a vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 this afternoon.

You further stated that there were amendments forthcoming. I have not seen any as yet — either orally or in writing. You solicited the view of Committee members, which was that, as there were no written amendments yet before the Committee, the Chair should allow amendments to be presented orally. Now is the time to present them orally. If they are not presented orally now, there is no provision for utilizing the 24-hour procedure, because you made it explicit that the voting would take place today.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The proposal of the Chair was indeed that the amendments would be presented orally and that we would then proceed to take a decision, to which no delegation objected. Nor did any delegation request a 24-hour postponement of consideration of this item. The subject, however, has come to the fore and so we must resolve it now. The only way to resolve it, if we cannot reconcile our views, is by a vote, and I have urged delegations to try and avoid a vote.

Mr. Baeldi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): I think that we should agree that there are substantive differences among delegations on draft resolutions with regard to one or more issues. I think we should also take into account that we need to play on a level playing field: everything should be clear and we should not force delegations to move in a certain direction.

I think it is very logical that certain amendments have been submitted in written form and that their sponsors should have the right to ask that delegations take a look at those amendments. We are dealing with a very important question. I do not see any logical justification for preventing delegations from looking at the amendments. Not all delegations are sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, and they want to see the amendments first and then decide how they should act upon them. I really do not see why we should reject the chance for delegations to see the amendments.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, you are now asking the sponsors of the amendments to decide on certain issues, including procedural issues. How can we consult among ourselves if we are being rushed to a decision?

Therefore, I agree with my Egyptian colleague that we need at least a five-minute recess so that sponsors can get together and make an appropriate decision. Otherwise, we will be pushed to take a decision that I am not sure is in the best interests of the Committee or in the best interests of the matters that we are addressing in the Committee. We should allow delegations to calmly consider how best to address the issues at hand.

The Chairman: I will now briefly suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): As I understand it, the sponsors of the draft resolution and the sponsors of the amendments thereto have not been able to reach an agreement. If there is no agreement among them, the Chairman must strictly apply the rules.

As was pointed out earlier, the 24-hour rule does not favour the amendments' sponsors; following consultations with the Legal Counsel, I confirm that it does not apply. However, I invite the sponsors to present the amendments orally, immediately following which the Committee will take a decision on such amendments and, if need be, on the draft resolution as amended. I would ask that the amendments be presented slowly enough so that all delegations can take written note of the amendments.

I call now on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Baiedi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): As you, Sir, have taken the decision — which we respect — that amendments are to be put forward orally, I would like, on behalf of the sponsors, to introduce three oral amendments and to ask for a separate vote on each.

First, with regard to the seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, I would like to introduce some amendments on behalf of the delegations of Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Pakistan. In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "development and" should be added before the word "proliferation", and the phrase "in a comprehensive manner" should be added at the end of the paragraph. The seventh preambular paragraph would therefore read as follows:

"Mindful of the need to combat the development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in a comprehensive manner".

Turning to operative paragraph 1, the word "first" should be inserted before "practical". The paragraph would then read,

"Welcomes the adoption of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation on 25 November 2002 at The Hague as a first practical step against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery".

The final amendment would be to paragraph 4, where the words "the United Nations" would be added after "Encourages", and "the exploration of" would be replaced by "to explore". Paragraph 4 would then read:

"Encourages the United Nations to explore further ways and means to deal effectively with the problem of the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction".

While I have the floor, I would just like to mention that the amendment to paragraph 1 is taken from the text of the Hague Code of Conduct itself and that the amended version of paragraph 4 is the previous version suggested by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50; this was then changed to a new formulation.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now take a decision on the amendments orally proposed by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I call first on the representative of Chile, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Maquieira (Chile) (spoke in Spanish): I would like to thank the delegations of Iran, Egypt and the other sponsors for having introduced their amendments. However, I must say that in draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 there is a delicate conceptual balance, which would be upset by the amendments. For that reason, my delegation is not able to accept those amendments and I would ask the sponsors to also act accordingly.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): As amendments have been presented that are not acceptable to the sponsors of draft resolution

A/C.1/59/L.50, separate recorded votes on them have been requested.

The Committee will now proceed to take action on amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

The Committee will first vote on the amendment to the seventh preambular paragraph.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting on the oral amendment to the seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now take action on the oral amendment proposed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation".

The amendment reads as follows: add the words "development and" before the word "proliferation", and add the words "in a comprehensive manner" at the end of the paragraph.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New

Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore

The amendment to the seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 was rejected by 21 votes to 103, with 8 abstentions.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): The Committee will now take action on the amendment to operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now take action on the oral amendment proposed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation".

The amendment reads as follows: add the word "first" before the word "practical".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile,

Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, India, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand

The amendment to operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 was rejected by 17 votes to 104, with 10 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on the amendment to operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now take action on the oral amendment proposed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation".

The amendment reads as follows: replace the phrase "encourages the exploration of" with the phrase "encourages the United Nations to explore".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Egypt, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Singapore, Thailand

The amendment to operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 was rejected by 23 votes to 103, with 6 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now proceed to the consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 as a whole. I call first on representatives

wishing to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Paranhos (Brazil): Brazil is a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and follows all its guidelines regarding export, control and transfer of technology. We have observed the growing adherence to the Hague Code of Conduct and we acknowledge that its subscribing States today number 117. We recognize the importance of the issue and the significance of adequate steps to impose discipline with respect to it.

Brazil participated in the initial negotiations of the Code and dissociated itself from them for reasons already explained. The Code does not address Brazilian expectations regarding development of technology towards the peaceful use of outer space, especially regarding programmes concerning satellite launching vehicles. We were disappointed with the downgrading of the Code's cooperation aspects in the final text. Moreover, we were not satisfied with the way negotiations were conducted, as there was not sufficient debate. Many views were not considered at that time.

We have therefore decided to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. We expect the international community to continue to work to achieve a non-discriminatory instrument on this matter.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. In 2002, Cuba participated actively in two of the meetings on negotiating the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. On that occasion, our delegation indicated our main difficulties on both substantive and procedural matters.

The process of adopting the Code must not be a precedent for future disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. In our view, there was a lack of transparency in the negotiations leading to adoption because the process took place outside the United Nations framework. It could be observed that the principal promoters of the initiative were not prepared to accept substantive changes to the text.

Consequently, the negotiations resulted in a political instrument that, in our view, does not adequately reflect the main interests of a significant number of countries. For example, the Code of Conduct does not address the question of the peaceful

use of missile technology and the need for cooperation in that area, which would respond to the particular interests of developing countries. The Code's focus is limited to horizontal proliferation, while ignoring vertical proliferation. Nor does the Code address the need to achieve the objective of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, given that it is well known that the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction is only part of the problem.

For the aforementioned reasons, we believe that the Hague Code of Conduct is an instrument that deals in a selective fashion with the issue of missile proliferation. That contrasts with the non-discriminatory, balanced and extensive manner in which the General Assembly has addressed this issue of missiles in all its aspects. Only a few States possess the technology of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. Development, economic growth and crucial progress in telecommunication technology are the objectives of all countries, in particular developing countries. Promoting the technological capacity of those countries must be the counterpart of our effort to curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction.

The transfer of technologies that foster the peaceful development of countries must not be prohibited. What we must prevent is the use of those technologies for military purposes. Economic and social development is not the preserve of a few; it is the patrimony of all humankind.

In the light of those considerations and the fact that the present Code of Conduct is not the product of genuine multilateral negotiations, my delegation will abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

Mr. Al-Hassan (Oman): My delegation supports the language of the draft resolution contained in A/C.1/59/L.50 despite the fact that the Code of Conduct was negotiated outside the auspices of the United Nations. Therefore, the negotiations lacked some of the transparency that we in the First Committee all talk about.

Our delegation came to this meeting with the full intention of voting in favour of this text. However, after listening to the intervention made by the representative of Chile on behalf of the sponsors and seeing the lack of flexibility, particularly the lack of a positive response to the appeal of the Chairman for a

24-hour deferral, our delegation has decided not to participate in the voting process, mainly due to the manner in which the sponsors of the draft resolution have decided to carry out procedural matters. Once again, we believe that the draft resolution as it stands is a good text. If the procedural aspect had been carried out amicably, we would have voted in favour of it.

Mr. Prasad (India): While the Indian delegation acknowledges the positive-minded intentions of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, India intends to abstain in the vote because it believes that arms control and disarmament measures should be transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory and that all Member States of the United Nations should be part of the process.

India has suffered from the adverse effects of proliferation, including in the area of missiles, and is determined to maintain its exemplary record in safeguarding its sensitive technologies. Disarmament and non-proliferation must be pursued to create a new system of comprehensive global security, for which the strengthening of the United Nations system is essential.

That objective cannot be served in the best manner possible through exclusivist, ad hoc or club-based approaches but through multilateral engagement and negotiations. An inclusive approach will allow the subject to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. It will also validate and reinforce the commitment of the larger number of States that would participate in such a process.

Mr. Rachmianto (Indonesia): My delegation intends to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 because we still have some concerns on the development of ballistic missiles. We are also of the view that proliferation of missiles will affect positions or principle related to our national security interests. Therefore, we prefer that the issue of missiles be dealt with in a comprehensive manner, under the auspices and in the framework of the United Nations.

Ms. García Guerra (Mexico) (spoke in Spanish): The delegation of Mexico has decided to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 because we take the view that commitments entered into in the realm of missiles and related technologies must be the product of a process of genuine negotiations and extensive discussions involving all interested States and faithfully reflecting all the concerns of Member States.

Mexico's abstention in no way reflects a refusal to deal with the serious issue of ballistic missile proliferation. Proof of my country's interest in the issue lies in our backing for United Nations efforts to examine the issue of missiles in all its aspects and in our support for the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts that has worked with the Secretary-General.

In my Government's opinion, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation does not effectively resolve the problem of ballistic missile proliferation, since it only deals with part of the issue. It does not include the benefits that flow from technology transfer and international cooperation, and it lacks a disarmament approach. Mexico's view is that the Code ignores important considerations and inputs offered by a variety of countries, including Mexico, during the preparatory process prior to its adoption.

Mexico reaffirms its full backing for United Nations efforts in arms control and disarmament. We reaffirm the need for all interested Member States to be openly involved in all phases of the discussion and in the adoption of relevant measures to deal effectively with the issue of missile proliferation in all its aspects.

Mr. Ellahi (Pakistan): Pakistan will abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. In the meetings held to discuss what was initially called the draft International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, Pakistan had stressed that the issue of missiles was complex. It was, therefore, important to address it in a duly constituted multilateral forum so that the views and concerns of all countries could be taken on board.

While we acknowledge that some effort was made to accommodate the concerns of States, the final product, given the ad hoc nature of the forum where the Hague Code of Conduct was negotiated, could not gain the acceptance of several missile possessor States. Since we are a country that is obliged to respond to the missile threat in our region, the Code does not adequately address our security concerns.

Even so, we believe that, had the sponsors of the draft resolution made some effort to negotiate a suitable text for draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, the outcome could have been quite different from what it is now expected to be in terms of the division that this draft resolution has created in this body. However, no such effort was made, as illustrated quite vividly this afternoon, and some of the sponsors seemed more

interested in getting the draft resolution adopted rather than promoting the Code. My delegation has therefore decided that it will abstain in the voting on the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation." The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Chile at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004.

The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.50, A/C.1/59/INF/2 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.1 and Add.2. In addition, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Samoa have now become sponsors of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland,

Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia

Against:

Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Tuvalu

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 was adopted by 137 votes to 2, with 16 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I am informed by the Secretary of the Committee that an oral statement can now be made on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1. We shall therefore take a decision on that draft resolution, after which we will hear speakers in explanation of vote or position on decisions taken under cluster I, "Nuclear weapons".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled "Missiles".

The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1. There is an oral statement in connection with that draft resolution which, with the Chair's permission, I shall now read out.

"In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled 'Missiles', I wish to put on record the following statement on financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"By operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare a report with the support of qualified consultants and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as appropriate, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, to contribute to the United Nations endeavour to address the issue of missiles in all its aspects, by identifying areas where consensus can be reached and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session; and also requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a panel of governmental experts, to be established in 2007, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, further to explore further ways and means to address, within the United Nations, the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including identifying areas where consensus can be reached, and to submit a report for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

"It is envisaged that the activities called for in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would take place in 2006, and that the panel of governmental experts requested in operative paragraph 3 would hold one session in 2007, and two sessions in 2008, of one week each.

"Accordingly, the conference servicing requirements at full cost are estimated in 2008 and 2009 at \$345,075. The non-conferencing requirements that would be needed to allow the Department of Disarmament Affairs to provide the necessary substantive support in the preparation of the report and with servicing of the sessions of the proposed panel of governmental experts to be held in New York in 2007 and 2008 is estimated at \$158,500 and \$327,800 respectively.

"These provisions would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budgets for the biennia 2006-2007 and 2008-2009.

"Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005."

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on the representative of the United States on a point of order.

Mr. Luages (United States of America): Our delegation would like to know why this information has not been provided to delegations in writing before the vote.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): With the permission of the representative of the United States, we will proceed to the vote on the draft resolution, and immediately afterwards I will ask the Secretariat to look into the matter and respond to his question.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee is voting on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled "Missiles".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1 was adopted by 98 votes to 2, with 60 abstentions.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on those representatives who wish speak in explanation of vote or position with regard to all draft resolutions and draft decisions under cluster 1.

Mr. Issa (Egypt): I wish to speak in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50. Egypt has supported the active involvement and engagement of the United Nations in addressing the issue of missiles since the issue was introduced in the First Committee five years ago. That position is an expression of our deeply held belief that the United Nations is the appropriate forum in which to address this and all other issues related to questions of international peace and security.

Since receiving the first draft of the Hague Code of Conduct from the Missile Technology Control Regime member States in 2000, we have conveyed our position that there are lacunae in the draft Code — which, regrettably, have not been addressed in the final document, of which we have taken note. They relate to areas of peaceful uses, cooperation and assistance. They also relate, more specifically, to the lack of comprehensive scope of the document, which addresses only the issue of the proliferation of missiles, but not that of their development.

It addresses ballistic missiles, but not cruise missiles, which have been the most common type of missiles in terms of use and proliferation, especially during the past decade. Also, it ignores the most

serious problem: that of the continued presence and development of nuclear weapons, of which ballistic missiles are only a means of delivery. In our view, the Hague Code of Conduct does not address the issue of missiles in a balanced manner; nor can it do so without structural adjustments to its text.

By joining our fellow sponsors in submitting amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, we wished to highlight the means to balance the text. Regrettably, we have noted the overwhelming vote against any further United Nations engagement on this issue. We have also noted an overwhelming vote against the need to develop the Code any further. We now acknowledge that there is an overwhelming vote against any further steps.

In our view, this is regrettable, and for that reason we voted against the draft resolution — in other words, because of all the elements I outlined in the first part of my statement relating to the Hague Code of Conduct.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba has again voted in favour of a draft resolution on the issue of missiles, which this year is contained in document A/59/L.6/Rev.1. We are convinced that the United Nations is the appropriate multilateral forum for dealing with the issue of missiles in all its aspects — not just paying attention to military issues, but also analysing the peaceful uses to which missiles can be put. This, in turn, is of use with regard to the exploration and peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of humanity.

Cuba is opposed to having measures in the disarmament arena and arms control focus exclusively on non-proliferation. Likewise, we have always insisted that, in addressing the matter of proliferation, we must take into account both its horizontal and its vertical dimensions.

In this context, my delegation supports the idea of establishing, in 2007, on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, a group of governmental experts. In that connection, we are convinced that greater involvement by third world countries in that group of experts will make a positive contribution to the process. Cuba would like to ensure that, in its work, the group of governmental experts not only emphasizes measures to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction, but also deals with the issue of high-

precision cruise missiles armed with conventional high-explosive warheads.

Finally, I should like to state that my delegation looks forward with keen interest to the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General under paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled "Missiles". The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this explanation of vote.

The European Union decided to abstain on the draft resolution on missiles, as we did last year. I would like to underline the fact that our abstention must not be regarded as a lack of commitment on this issue. On the contrary, the EU is convinced that the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction puts at risk the security of all States and peoples. The development, by several countries of concern, of programmes of autonomous capacity in the production of medium- and long-range ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, as well as cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, is a growing cause of concern within the European Union.

The European Union welcomes the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, which was successfully launched in November 2002 in The Hague and which has to date been subscribed to by 117 States. Unfortunately, the draft resolution introduced by Iran does not make any specific reference to the Code.

Last year during the voting process on the draft resolution, the EU stated that we were

"not convinced that another panel of governmental experts, as proposed by the draft resolution under consideration, to assist in the preparation of a report on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, is an efficient next step". (A/C.1/58/PV.16, p. 5)

The EU remains of the opinion that a panel of experts would be meaningful only on the basis of an agreed specific mandate which ensured added value.

We take note of the sponsors' proposal that the Secretary-General produce a report, taking into account the views of Member States, before a new panel is convoked. This shall include views already expressed. It is difficult to imagine that the unchanged mandate of the third panel, which would be established by the draft resolution, will this time lead to a positive outcome in the form of agreed conclusions. However, the EU will approach the issue constructively.

Those are the reasons why the EU is not in a position to support the draft resolution.

Mr. Hu Xiaodi (China) (spoke in Chinese): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation". I would like to take this opportunity to explain China's position in that regard.

China agrees with the non-proliferation objectives of the Hague Code of Conduct. China participated in the discussions on the draft code. As some of China's concerns were not resolved during those discussions, China has not subscribed to the Code. However, China will continue to exchange views with all sides, including Hague Code of Conduct subscriber States, in a joint effort to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

China has always supported non-proliferation and has advocated continuously the strengthening of international non-proliferation efforts through dialogue and cooperation, with universal participation. The role of the United Nations should be fully utilized in that process.

Mr. Alhariri (Syrian Arab Republic) (spoke in Arabic): I wish to explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, on the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. We are fully committed to the United Nations Charter and to the need to work within a multilateral framework, to effectively implement disarmament instruments with a view to achieving general and complete disarmament and ridding the world of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and their delivery vehicles. We affirm the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter,

which states that we have the right to self-defence in the event of aggression.

My country abstained in the vote on the draft resolution entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation", contained in document A/C.1/59/L.50, because it is discriminatory and selective. The draft resolution addresses only one category of missiles and does not address other kinds of missiles, because that category of missile is a monopoly of certain countries. The draft resolution deals with the question of proliferation from one particular angle, and does not address the causes of such proliferation. Even more important, the Hague Code of Conduct runs counter to the principle of pluralism, which is the foundation of the United Nations.

The First Committee has adopted draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled "Missiles", by which the issue would be studied comprehensively and in depth, without discrimination and selectivity. It offers solutions that are acceptable to all.

Some agreements concluded outside the United Nations have been brought into the United Nations to form part of the set of international instruments. That is detrimental and contrary to non-proliferation and undermines that concept. It also undermines disarmament and runs counter to the non-proliferation machinery.

Mr. Maandi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): My country devotes special attention to combating the delivery systems of weapons of mass destruction as a complement to reaching the goals of nuclear, biological and chemical disarmament and non-proliferation. We have thus taken the initiative to promote the elimination of those weapons and their delivery systems and have worked faithfully towards the fulfilment of all international obligations in that area.

My delegation was unable to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, entitled "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation", because the draft resolution was not the subject of discussion with the other members of the Committee and does not take into account amendments intended to include the concept of the vertical proliferation of ballistic missiles and to emphasize the role of the United Nations.

We feel that comprehensive, balanced and non-selective treatment of the issue of missiles must go

beyond the fight against horizontal proliferation of those weapons to include other issues that are no less important, such as their design, development, testing and deployment — which are vertical issues.

The fight against the delivery systems of weapons of mass destruction demands that we not ignore and remain silent about cruise missiles and other such weapons which are just as fearsome. Finally, we feel that the natural framework for negotiation and the adoption of instruments in this matter remains the United Nations and that the Disarmament Commission is the only multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation negotiating body.

Mr. Hassan (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 because my country is a party to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and because a majority of the 117 subscribing countries were behind the draft resolution in favour of strengthening action in that area. That does not mean that we should not have been flexible on addressing concerns relating to other issues, specifically those of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to a brief deferral of consideration of the draft resolution. My delegation would have liked to see the draft resolution adopted later, in order to maintain the spirit of dialogue and consensus in the Committee.

Mr. Baeidi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): The fact is that my country, by introducing draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1 to the Committee, has expressed its interest in dealing with the issue of missiles within the United Nations.

Unfortunately, my delegation was forced to vote against draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, because it is unprecedented during the First Committee's deliberations for a draft resolution to be introduced and for its sponsors to refuse to even consider or discuss improvements to the text. Key Hague Code of Conduct delegations — in defiance of the interest of other member States that have not subscribed to the Code in engaging, in a good and cooperative spirit, and in having their views reflected in the draft resolution — continuously rejected discussing improvements to the text.

That attitude, as well as their stating in the strongest terms that draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 was not open to any kind of modification, is against the spirit of the United Nations, which is a vehicle for

cooperation and collaboration among Member States. It also contradicts the rule of democratic relations among nations.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50 was drafted behind closed doors and outside the framework of the United Nations, and was brought here only to force delegations to accept it on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. That is not the way the United Nations works, and we hope that this attitude of the key sponsors will change in future exercises.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Six speakers in explanation of vote remain on my list. With the agreement of members, and in view of the lateness of the hour, I will call on them tomorrow at the beginning of our meeting. We shall then proceed with the consideration of the other draft resolutions which were to have been considered at this meeting, as contained in informal paper 1.

I would also like to call attention to informal paper 2, which lists a number of draft resolutions on which we presume the Committee will be in a position to take action.

It is very important that the Chair know as soon as possible when there are problems in the consideration of a given draft resolution. I am not going to call a meeting to order — as happened today — almost 40 minutes late because of a general lack of knowledge about whether the Committee would take action on certain draft texts. I think that sponsors of draft resolutions, and delegations intending to introduce amendments should bear in mind the need to inform the Chair of such issues well in advance of a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.15 p.m.



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

18th meeting

Wednesday, 27 October 2004, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Chairman: Mr. De Alba (Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda items 57 to 72 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to draw representatives' attention to Informal Paper No. 2/Rev.1, which contains the draft resolutions that were listed in Informal Paper No. 1 and on which we did not have an opportunity to reach decisions yesterday. It also contains the draft resolutions that appeared in Informal Paper No. 2, which was distributed yesterday. In other words, we have merged Papers No. 1 and No. 2 in order to put each subject in its proper thematic cluster.

If I hear no objection, we shall proceed in accordance with the order in which those drafts appear in Informal Paper No. 2/Rev.1, beginning with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37. I should like to invite delegations, in particular the sponsors of draft resolutions or draft decisions, to report to the Chair as soon as possible as to whether there is any reason why those drafts cannot be considered today.

I now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on draft resolutions already adopted.

Mr. Mine (Japan): I have asked for the floor in order to explain the position of my Government on the

draft resolution entitled "Missiles", contained in document A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, which was adopted yesterday.

The proliferation of missiles as delivery vehicles for weapons of mass destruction is a matter of grave concern to Japan, as we believe that it poses a threat to peace and stability in both the global and the regional contexts. For that reason, Japan has been making its own effort to ensure the non-proliferation of and to reduce the threat posed by those missiles. We also contributed to the discussions of the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Missiles in All Their Aspects established by the Secretary-General, although the Panel was not able to reach consensus on the report.

Japan, however, abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, because it contains no explicit reference to concerns about the proliferation of missiles as delivery vehicles for weapons of mass destruction or any acknowledgement of ongoing non-proliferation efforts, such as the establishment and ongoing process towards the universalization of the Hague Code of Conduct, in which my country participates.

Regardless of our vote, we remain committed to the goal of ensuring the non-proliferation of such missiles while promoting international and regional peace and stability through a variety of means.

Ms. Martinic (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation has asked for the floor to comment on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled "Missiles".

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



We should like first to comment on the work carried out by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Missiles in All Their Aspects at the three meetings held this year. Although the Panel was unable to reach consensus or adopt a report, the final draft that emerged from its discussions is a good basis for work that reflects in an adequate and balanced manner the various positions of the parties. That is why we should have preferred to extend the meetings of the Panel by another week in order to allow it to complete its work and submit a final report. The new panel should take as a basis and starting point for its work the achievements of the present Panel.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We wish to speak in explanation of vote on draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, on missiles, and L.50, on the Hague Code of Conduct.

The Russian Federation has traditionally supported the resolution entitled "Missiles" and has voted in favour of it at this session as well. We have always believed that there is a need for comprehensive consideration of the problems related to missile proliferation, including issues concerning the various motivations involved, by all interested States on an equal footing. Therefore, we believe that the most appropriate forum for such work is the United Nations. That is the reason behind the Russian initiative to create a global control system for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies.

We put forward such an approach in the context of the work of the two panels of governmental experts that were established in accordance with the resolutions on missiles. The success of the work of the first panel enabled us to hope that the second group would also conclude its work with the adoption of an agreed document. Unfortunately, that did not take place, both because of the complexity of the problem under consideration and for other reasons. However, the second panel of experts was able to make progress not only in considering the problem, but also in formulating practical proposals to resolve it. In our view, it would be a waste of time to lose that positive momentum and the relevant groundwork, although it has yet to take the form of a final report. Therefore, we believe there is a need to continue to study missile-related problems within the framework of the United Nations.

We hope that the work carried out by the panel of qualified consultants, with the participation of the

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, to prepare a new report of the Secretary-General on missiles for the next session of the General Assembly will be successful. For our part, we wish to make a constructive contribution to the panel's forthcoming work.

The Russian Federation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.50, on the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, on the basis of our consistent policy regarding missile non-proliferation issues and because Russia is a party to the Code. We consider the adoption of the Code as the first real step towards countering the proliferation of ballistic missiles, which are delivery vehicles for weapons of mass destruction. It is clear that further practical steps in that area could include both universalization of the Code and gradual expansion of the sphere of coverage of this agreement and future agreements by all parties involved.

Accordingly, in keeping with our approach, we have supported amendments to the resolution that concern the role of the United Nations and the fact that the Code represents the first real step towards missile non-proliferation. We abstained in the vote on adding the word "development" for the technical reason that the draft resolution on the Hague Code of Conduct refers to a specific document, and that amendment has only indirect relevance to it.

During the current First Committee session, in our consideration of issues related to the further improvement of our work there has been no discussion of a proposal recommending that the sponsors of draft resolutions on similar or related subjects agree, whenever possible and in a timely manner, to combine such documents into a single draft. As we know, we have already had our first positive experience in that area. Accordingly, we believe it important that, in order to support and strengthen the multilateral aspect of our work, we also try to avoid taking any action that would pit various draft resolutions against others on similar subjects. That not only would reduce the effectiveness of the Committee's work; it would also prevent us from making progress in reaching decisions on key international security and disarmament issues.

Mr. Lew (Republic of Korea): I am taking the floor in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6/Rev.1, entitled "Missiles".

My delegation abstained in the voting on the draft resolution. Following the first panel discussions, held

in 2001 and 2002, the Republic of Korea actively participated in the deliberations of the second panel of governmental experts on missiles this year. Regrettably, however, the panel was not able to reach a consensus for adopting a final report. In our view, that was due mainly to the fundamental differences among States in their perceptions and views concerning certain elements of missile-related issues. We do not believe that those differences will dissipate soon. Therefore, we believe it is premature to explicitly consider establishing another panel of governmental experts at this stage. For that reason, we abstained in the voting on the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

As I indicated at the beginning of the meeting, we shall proceed to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions listed in Informal Paper No. 2/Rev.1, in the order in which they appear. Once again, I wish to remind delegations that sponsors of draft resolutions may make general statements at the beginning of the meeting or of our consideration of a cluster of subjects. However, in accordance with the rules, they cannot speak in explanation of vote either before or after the relevant decision has been taken.

Does any delegation wish to make a general comment on cluster 1, on nuclear weapons? I call on the representative of Israel.

Mr. Bar (Israel): The First Committee is called upon to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.37 entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" — a draft resolution that is blatantly one-sided, contentious and divisive, and that undermines, rather than enhances, confidence between the States of the region.

Since the draft resolution was first introduced, many alarming developments have occurred that are directly related to the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Some of those developments became apparent to the international community only recently, especially after the meetings last September and this of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In addition, other efforts are being made in the region to acquire weapons of mass destruction and missile capabilities, as our delegation pointed out during the general debate.

The bias of the draft resolution stems from its neglect of the fact that the real risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East emanates from countries that, despite being parties to international treaties, do not comply with their relevant international obligations. Those countries are engaged in ongoing efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles — efforts that have a destabilizing effect not only in the region but also on a global scale. The draft resolution chooses to ignore the internationally acknowledged evidence regarding States in the Middle East that join international arrangements but do not feel genuinely bound by them. The same States abuse the benefits of those arrangements in order to obtain nuclear technology for military purposes under a false pretext. The draft resolution also overlooks the profound hostility of States in the region towards Israel and their refusal to maintain any form of peaceful reconciliation and coexistence with Israel.

Adopting a draft resolution that does not reflect this reality will not serve the greater objective of curbing proliferation in the Middle East. Resolutions regarding the complex arms control problems in the Middle East should focus on objective ways to address them as they exist.

The draft resolution focuses entirely on one country that has never threatened its neighbours, nor abrogated its obligations under any disarmament treaty. Moreover, it singles out Israel in a manner that no other United Nations Member State is being singled out in the First Committee. Singling out Israel is counterproductive to confidence-building and peace in the region and does not give this body any credibility.

Israel's supreme objective is to achieve peace and security. Its non-proliferation and arms-control policy is aimed at supporting this objective. The constructive approach adopted by Israel over the years towards arms control and non-proliferation efforts was described in our statement in the general debate. It is best demonstrated by our attitude towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, despite substantive reservations regarding its modalities, and it is strongly undermined by the introduction of this biased draft resolution.

The fact that countries continue to lend a hand in such an abuse of reality and misuse of the United Nations is a source of deep disappointment to us.

The First Committee should not become a venue for political discrimination. We would like to call upon delegations to vote against the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): If no other delegation wishes to take the floor in explanation of vote under cluster 1, "Nuclear weapons", which includes draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.37 and L.44, we will take action on the draft resolutions.

The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37. A recorded vote has been requested.

A request has been made for a separate recorded vote on the sixth preambular paragraph. We will first take up the preambular paragraph and then proceed to the vote on the draft resolution as a whole. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the First Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37, entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October 2004. The sponsors are listed in the document.

The Committee will now proceed to take a separate vote on the sixth preambular paragraph, which reads as follows:

"Recognizing with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty".

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Mauritius, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea

The sixth preambular paragraph was retained by 154 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the First Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37 as a whole.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Trinidad and Tobago

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37 as a whole was adopted by 157 votes to 4, with 8 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.44. A recorded vote has been requested. I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.44, entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October. The sponsors are listed in the document. Nigeria and Mali have also become sponsors.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa,

Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mozambique, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.44 was adopted by 109 votes to none, with 61 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Verma (India): India abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37 as a whole and voted against the sixth preambular paragraph, as it believes that it is necessary to limit the focus of the draft to the region that it intends to address.

According to customary international law, as encapsulated in the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, States adhere to treaties considered to be in consonance with their national interests based on their freely exercised sovereign choice. The references to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in this draft resolution in the context of the

call for the universalization of the Treaty are at variance with this principle.

Notwithstanding its inability to support this draft resolution, India hopes that the draft will enable progress to be made in its principal focus in the coming years through positive contributions from the concerned States of the region.

Mr. Shaw (Australia): I take the floor to explain Australia's abstention on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.37, entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

Australia supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery and, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, has consistently called on Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We have also been consistent in our support for the General Assembly resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East freely arrived at among the States of the region.

Regrettably, however, we continue to have a number of substantial difficulties with the draft resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", notably its emphasis on the State of Israel, with no reference to other Middle Eastern States of nuclear proliferation concern.

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, reflecting international concern about Iran's nuclear intentions, unanimously called on Iran to abide by its nuclear safeguard obligations and immediately suspend its uranium-enrichment programme. It is regrettable that the draft resolution makes no reference to the international community's serious concerns about this matter.

Australia is committed to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. As a strong supporter of the NPT, we will continue to promote these objectives at the 2005 NPT Review Conference and in all other international forums.

Mr. Lew (Republic of Korea): My delegation wishes to explain its position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.44, entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear

weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

As has been previously and repeatedly stated, it is the firm belief of my delegation that any non-nuclear-weapon State which is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and is in full compliance with all its obligations under the Treaty is entitled to be provided with full-fledged negative security assurances by the nuclear-weapon States. However, we do not believe that such negative security assurances would be of a nature to be provided to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT, regardless of their behaviour with respect to fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. The draft resolution continues to fail to reflect this concern on the of our delegation. That is why we abstained in the voting.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We will now proceed to the second cluster, "Other weapons of mass destruction".

We will proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.12*. A recorded vote has been requested. I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.12*, entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October. The sponsors are listed in the document.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia,

Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Israel, Marshall Islands, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.12 was adopted by 165 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mauritania informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.16. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.16, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,

Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Poland at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October. The sponsors are listed in the document.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution without a vote? If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.15 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Does any delegation wish to explain their vote or position on the draft resolutions in cluster 2, which we have just considered?

As I see none, we shall now proceed to consider cluster 3, "Outer space". Does any delegation wish to make general comments or to explain their vote before we take action?

As there are none, we will therefore proceed to the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.36. A recorded vote has been requested. I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.36, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the Committee's 12th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.36 and A/C.1/L.59/INF/2 and Add.1 and 2. Belarus has also become a sponsor.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt,

El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, P. nama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Israel, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.36 was adopted by 167 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Does any delegation wish to explain their vote or position on this cluster?

If not, we shall now begin consideration of cluster 4, "Conventional weapons", and draft decision A/C.1/59/L.48 in particular.

Does any delegation wish to make general remarks on this cluster, or to explain their position

before we take action on draft decision L.48, entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus"?

I understand that no delegation has requested a recorded vote. The draft decision is therefore adopted.

Draft decision A/C.1/59/L.48 was adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): Unless a delegation wishes to explain its position on the draft decision just adopted, we will now begin consideration of cluster 5, "Regional disarmament and security".

Does any delegation wish to make general remarks on this cluster or to explain its vote before we take action?

The Committee will now take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.46. A recorded vote has been requested. I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.46, entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the Committee's 14th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.46, A/C.1/59/INF/2 and Add.3.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia,

Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India

Abstaining:

Bhutan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.46 was adopted by 165 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to delegations for statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

Mr. Verma (India): We take the floor to explain India's vote against draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.46, on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional level.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus, in 1993, guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security. We therefore do not agree that we need, at this juncture, to formulate principles for the framework for regional arrangements. Furthermore, India's security parameters extend beyond south Asia. A resolution that sets about

applying regional security approaches to narrowly defined geographical regions is restrictive, from our standpoint. Finally, India cannot support the call for the Conference on Disarmament — a forum for negotiations of international instruments of global application — to consider the formulation of a principle for a framework for regional instruments on conventional arms control.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution contained in A/C.1/59/L.47. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.47, entitled "Regional disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the Committee's 14th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in the document.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): The sponsors of this draft resolution have indicated that they would like the Committee to adopt it without a vote. I take it that this is the desire of the Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.47 was adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): We will now proceed to consider the drafts in cluster 6, "Confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments".

Do any delegations wish to make general remarks, or to explain their vote before the vote?

The Committee will take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.3. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.3, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Equatorial Guinea at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.3 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

With the permission of the Chairman, I shall now read an oral statement in connection with that draft resolution.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.3, "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", I wish to put on record the following statement on financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would welcome the creation of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, to be known as the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States, held at Yaoundé on 25 February 1999, and would request the Secretary-General to give his full support to the effective realization of that important mechanism. It would emphasize the need to make the early warning mechanism in Central Africa operational so that it would serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and, on the other hand, as a technical body through which the member States would carry out the programme of work of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting held at Yaoundé in 1992, and would request the Secretary-General to provide it with the assistance necessary for it to function properly. The Assembly would request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa; request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and the early warning mechanism; also request the Secretary-General to support the establishment of a network of parliamentarians with a view to the creation of a subregional parliament in Central Africa; and request the

Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories. The Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry on their efforts.

"The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee — including those related to the implementation and functioning of the early warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, referred to in operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 9 of the draft resolution, and those related to the establishment of a network of parliamentarians, referred to in operative paragraph 10 — are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

"Implementation of the activities related to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution regarding increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories would be subject to the availability of voluntary contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 15 regarding the provision of assistance to the States members of the Committee would be carried out within the resources already provided under section IV, "Disarmament", of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

"Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.3, no additional requirements would arise in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005."

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors have indicated that they would like the Committee to adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to proceed accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.3 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the First Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52, entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Argentina at the Committee's 15th meeting on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.52 and A/C.1/59/INF/2 and Add.2 and 3. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Gabon, Timor-Leste and Fiji.

With the permission of the Chairman, I shall now read out an oral statement in connection with that draft resolution.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52, entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms", I wish to put on record the following statement on financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"By operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to establish, with the financial support of States in a position to do so, an electronic database containing information provided by Member States and to assist them, at their request, in the organization of seminars, courses and workshops aimed at enhancing the knowledge of new developments in this field.

"Implementation of the request contained in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution regarding the establishment of an electronic database and the organization of seminars, courses and workshops on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms would be carried out only when sufficient extra-budgetary funding was received, in advance, from States in a position to provide financial support.

"Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005."

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): The sponsors have indicated that they would like the Committee to adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to proceed accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.52 was adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): We shall now proceed to cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery".

I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/L.14 have requested that they be considered at a later meeting of the Committee. The Committee will therefore now take up only draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.42*, L.9, L.18 and L.20.

I now call on representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42*, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission". The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic area, align themselves with this explanation of vote.

The EU attaches special importance to the work of the Disarmament Commission. It is an important deliberative body aimed at promoting fruitful multilateral dialogue in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. However, the EU must express its deep disappointment that the Disarmament Commission has been unable to reach agreement on substantive agenda items for the current cycle. In our view, the Commission should adopt a more constructive and realistic approach to its next phase of work.

While the EU continues to support the Disarmament Commission, we believe that the failure to reach consensus on agenda items has rendered a disservice to it. It also shows the relevance of discussing efforts to enhance the work and working methods of the Commission.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to a successful outcome of the Disarmament Commission's work and to every possible effort to promote topical, concrete and useful recommendations. That is the reason why the EU supports draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42.

Ms. Sanders (United States of America): Our delegation requests that the record of today's meeting show that the United States did not participate in the Committee's action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42*, "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Mr. Meyer (Canada): I wish to explain Canada's position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42*, "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

During our general and thematic debate, many lamented the sad state of the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery, particularly the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. In this Committee, we are actively engaged in improving the effectiveness of our work. It is Canada's hope that the Conference on Disarmament next year will be able to arrive at agreement on a programme of work. The United Nations Disarmament Commission can have an important role to play, making substantive and valuable contributions, as it has previously done.

Canada remains deeply disappointed at the failure of the Commission again this year to do any productive work, following several years of inability to agree upon the substantive report. That situation cannot continue, in our view. We remain concerned that, once again, the Committee has before it a draft resolution lacking recommendations on substantive issues for the Commission to take up next year at its three-week session. Such sessions involve considerable financial costs that must be assumed for United Nations services, although we have not even agreed on whether or not the Commission will have work to do.

Canada would like to see the Disarmament Commission return to a focus on substantive issues. However, next year, following in the reform mode of this Committee, it may be worthwhile for the Commission to devote its session to an examination and discussion of how it can play a more effective role and make the kind of contribution all would like to see. We regret that this could not take place this year. If the Disarmament Commission continues to be unable to even agree upon topics, much less upon a substantive

report, many countries will lose interest in attending its meetings, and its role and relevance will diminish.

We thus urge delegations to reflect actively on that in the coming weeks and to commit to having a useful discussion next year in the Commission about the Commission itself and its functioning. The First Committee could also discuss that next year as part of its thematic debate portion. That would not preclude a longer-term appraisal.

We simply cannot go on adopting these hollow draft resolutions without making an effort to come to grips with the underlying problems.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42*. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.42*, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Georgia at the 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.42* and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.42 was adopted.*

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.9. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.9, entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.9 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the programme budget implications of this draft

resolution, which are set out in document A/C.1/59/L.57.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.9 have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.9 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.18. I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.18, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.18 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the programme budget implications of this draft resolution, which are set out in document A/C.1/59/L.59.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.18 have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.18 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.20. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.20, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". It was introduced by the representative of Nepal at the Committee's 14th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.20 and INF/2 and Add.3. Fiji also has become a sponsor of L.20.

I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the programme budget implications of this draft resolution, which are set out in document A/C.1/59/L.58.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.20 have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.20 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I would now invite delegations wishing to explain their position after action has been taken to take the floor. They may do so on any of the resolutions under cluster 7.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation would like to make the following explanation with regard to draft resolution L.42, which has just been adopted without a vote.

It is regrettable that the United Nations Disarmament Commission has been unable this year even to begin considering substantive issues. My delegation played an active part in the informal consultations, which began at the start of this year. We tried to achieve a consensus on the agenda items for the substantive meeting in 2004. We actively supported the constructive proposals of items that were presented by the Non-Aligned Movement in a timely fashion and in keeping with the provisions set out in General Assembly decision 52/492. Regrettably, the text of draft resolution L.42 does not include any specific items in operative paragraph 5.

Cuba considers that the Disarmament Commission must be preserved as a specialized deliberating body within the multilateral disarmament machinery of the United Nations.

For our part, we reject the approach taken by certain delegations who said that the Commission cannot be effective until its present working methods are changed. In our opinion, no change in the working methods of this Commission could change the fact that there is a clear lack of political will on the part of certain countries to advance the multilateral approach to disarmament and, in particular, the question of nuclear disarmament.

Like other non-aligned countries, Cuba will continue to make an active, constructive contribution

to efforts being made to achieve a consensus on the items that should be on the agenda of the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in 2005.

Mr. Issa (Egypt) (spoke in Arabic): My delegation would like to explain its position on the report of the Disarmament Commission, which the Committee has just adopted.

We regret that the Member States of the United Nations have not responded to the positive and active efforts that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has undertaken since 2004, with a view to agreeing to the agenda of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Our delegation believes in the important role played by the Disarmament Commission in the framework of the United Nations disarmament mechanisms. We regret that the Commission's meetings were wasted in discussing procedural matters, despite the fact that NAM called for respecting, not squandering, those meetings.

We have requested that the Commission's work be suspended, in order to preserve the integrity of the meetings. We emphasize again the priority we attach to the continued activities of the Commission as the deliberative forum of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

I would just like to state that the delegation of Egypt, in the course of the interactive dialogue of the past two weeks, enquired about the possibility of being informed by this Committee of the resources to be set aside for the Conference on Disarmament. I hope to be informed of that.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Chair notes the request of the representative of Egypt. I ask the Secretariat to take that request into account in the not-so-distant future. I hope that can be done this week, preferably tomorrow.

We have completed consideration of cluster 7. We will now consider the draft resolutions which appear under cluster 8, "Other disarmament measures".

First, let me call on delegations that may wish to make general statements on any of the draft resolutions which appear under cluster 8. If there are no such statements, would any delegation like to make an explanation of vote or position before action is taken? Such explanation may refer to any draft that is under consideration. That does not appear to be the case.

The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.2/Rev.1. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.2/Rev.1, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Russian Federation, at the 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in the document. In addition, Kyrgyzstan has now become a sponsor.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.2/Rev.1 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.5. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.5, entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Netherlands at the 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsor is indicated in the document.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsor of the draft resolution has expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.5 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.51. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.51, entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.51 and

A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.2. In addition, Estonia, France and Sierra Leone have become sponsors.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.51 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.10. A recorded vote has been requested. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.10, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.10 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar,

Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.10 was adopted by 165 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.28. A recorded vote has been requested. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.28, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.28 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia,

Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

France, Israel.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.28 was adopted by 165 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.32. A recorded vote has been requested. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.32, entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.32 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany,

Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Russian Federation, Samoa, South Africa, Tonga, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.32 was adopted by 101 votes to 49, with 17 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I shall now call on those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of vote or position on the draft resolutions just adopted under cluster 8.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation would like to clarify its position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.5, entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology", which has just been adopted without a vote.

First, we believe that it is only within the framework of legally binding, multilaterally negotiated treaties of universal and non-discriminatory scope that we can effectively guarantee strict international control over the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technologies.

The existence of export control regimes based on selective and discriminatory criteria represents a serious obstacle to the realization of the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful use of existing means and technologies in the chemical, biological and nuclear fields.

Cuba believes that the most effective export and import control regime is one that is negotiated and implemented in a truly multilateral framework. Only broad and non-discriminatory participation in these controls can guarantee the effective achievement of the goals that are being pursued.

Multilateral efforts must be supplemented by measures adopted at the national level which strengthen the commitments entered into by States in the framework of the international treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation to which they are parties.

Mr. Freeman (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom is pleased to have been able to support draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.28, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". The report of the Group of Experts, which the draft acknowledges, contains many constructive recommendations that we support.

We welcome the mainstreaming of disarmament issues in development policy, particularly in the field of conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons, and in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We fully support the report's recommendations on small arms and light weapons. They are consistent with the United Nations Programme of Action on the subject, and we agree that there is a need for its 2006 Review Conference to consider the subject of small arms and light weapons transfers. We believe that the United Kingdom's transfer controls initiative has an important contribution to make in building consensus behind action in this area. We further support the report's recommendations concerning landmines and explosive remnants of war. We also agree with the report of the Group of Experts that there is no automatic link between disarmament and development, but that a complex relationship exists between the two.

However, we do not accept the report's suggestion that little evident progress is being made on nuclear disarmament. Nor do we accept that the integrity and effectiveness of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime is in doubt. The United Kingdom has made dramatic reductions in its nuclear weapons. We now have a minimum nuclear deterrent and we remain fully committed to our disarmament obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which has the widest membership of any arms control treaty and remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We also believe that the report does not give sufficient credit to unilateral, bilateral and multilateral actions in disarmament and non-proliferation. Such measures have brought and can bring positive results and their value is recognized in the arms control field, including in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

Ms. Sanders (United States of America): Regarding draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.10, the United States has previously made clear in this Committee that it sees no direct connection between general environmental standards and multilateral arms control agreements. We also remain unconvinced that this draft resolution is relevant to the work of the First Committee.

The United States believes that States parties to bilateral, regional or multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements should take relevant environmental concerns into account when implementing such agreements. The United States Government operates under stringent domestic environmental regulations, including in the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements. Concern for the environment, however, should not lead us to overburden the crucial negotiation phase of crafting an agreement. Such agreements are difficult enough to negotiate without having to take into account factors that are not relevant to their central purpose. In addition, it should not be the role of the United Nations to attempt to set standards for the content of arms control and disarmament agreements. It is up to the parties to such agreements to choose the provisions by which they are willing to be bound.

This draft resolution has not changed in the last four sessions of the General Assembly. That suggests to us that draft resolution L.10 and its predecessors have not generated progress towards resolving the issues its sponsors wish to address. For that reason, and because of our continuing reservations about the appropriateness and utility of the draft resolution, the United States has voted against it.

The United States has also voted against draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.28, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". Our delegation continues to believe that disarmament and development are two distinct issues that do not lend themselves to being linked. It was for that reason that the United States did not participate in the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. Accordingly, the United States does not and will not consider itself bound by the declaration in the Final Document of that Conference.

The Chairman: We have thus concluded consideration of draft resolutions under thematic cluster 8.

We shall now begin consideration of cluster 10, "International security", and take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.11, the one draft resolution remaining in this cluster. Does any delegation wish to make general remarks on this cluster, or to explain their vote before we take action?

If not, we shall proceed to take action on draft resolution L.11. A recorded vote has been requested. I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.11, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, at the Committee's 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.11 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania,

Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

Albania, Israel, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Poland, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.11 was adopted by 109 votes to 9, with 49 abstentions.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): As that was the only draft resolution under consideration in cluster 10, I now give the floor to delegations wishing to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.11, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation". The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this explanation of vote.

As stated in the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted by the European Council last year, the EU is committed to the multilateral treaty system, which provides the legal and normative basis for all non-proliferation efforts. It is the EU's conviction that a multilateral approach to security, including disarmament and non-

proliferation, provides the best way to maintain international order; hence our commitment to uphold, implement and strengthen multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements.

The EU policy is to pursue the implementation and universalization of the existing disarmament and non-proliferation norms. Unfortunately, draft resolution L.11 contains a number of elements — in both its preambular and operative paragraphs — that the European Union cannot support. As was the case last year, the elements in question are of a serious nature.

These elements in question are of a serious nature, and we again brought to the attention of the sponsors our concerns and views on this subject. We provided suggestions as to how the draft could be improved. We must conclude that our fundamental concerns have not been taken into account and that the draft resolution retains language that makes it unbalanced.

The European Union believes that unilateral, bilateral and multilateral actions in disarmament and non-proliferation can bring and have brought positive results. Among other documents, the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference itself recognizes this. Draft resolution L.11 does not give sufficient credit to such measures.

It is for these reasons that we are not in a position to support this resolution. We remain committed to multilateral approaches in the areas of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and we continue to recognize their importance.

Ms. Pollack (Canada): I take the floor on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand to explain our abstention on L.11. We need and welcome opportunities here to promote multilateralism and non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. However, despite our firm, longstanding commitment to multilateral principles and approaches, we are disappointed that once again we could not support this resolution.

Multilateralism is indeed a core principle in our work. It is not, however, the core principle, in the language of operative paragraph 1, which implies that it is the only fundamental means. Our shared security system is rather the sum of many parts, involving a

variety of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral measures. All these are necessary in effective global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. None alone is sufficient.

We also had problems with the tone of parts of this resolution. Rather than advancing an inclusive vision of multilateralism, in our view it continues to offer a restrictive, and not universal, interpretation. Such an approach risks harming the cause of those who believe in and support its value. That is why we were unable to support L.11 and instead abstained.

We look forward to working constructively next year to enhance the role and contribution of multilateralism and to develop a resolution that can be adopted without a vote.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Does any other delegation wish to explain its vote? If not, we will conclude our consideration of cluster 10 for today.

Tomorrow the Committee will continue with adoption of resolutions and decisions, as scheduled. We also have a graduation ceremony for the scholarship holders in disarmament.

I would like to point out, however, that we do not have a very busy agenda. There are only a few resolutions for consideration tomorrow, and even fewer for Friday. Therefore, unless circumstances change, the Chair will be forced to cancel the Friday meeting, as I do not think it is appropriate to call a meeting to consider the very small number of draft resolutions that we currently have for Friday.

I invite all delegations, especially those who are co-sponsoring draft resolutions, to do what they can to further the consideration of their drafts. Without that, tomorrow we might have to decide to cancel the Friday meeting, and whatever resolutions are pending then will be dealt with next week. I would also remind delegations that informal discussions are proceeding on a number of subjects at present. If the Friday meeting is cancelled my plan is to make full use of the time — although we would not necessarily have to have conference services — so it would not be a free Friday; it would be a Friday for consultations.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

19th meeting

Thursday, 28 October 2004, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

Chairman: Mr. De Alba

(Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda items 57 to 72 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): Before we continue our work, I wish to inform members that the situation foreseen yesterday with regard to the dearth of draft resolutions ready for the Committee's consideration has come to pass, and I have thus decided to cancel tomorrow afternoon's meeting. I urge everyone to use tomorrow for intensive informal consultations, which will enable us to achieve better results beginning next Monday.

In this decision-making process, I know that at least a couple of informal meetings have already been scheduled, including an exercise that will be led by the chairmanship. I believe all draft resolutions still requiring some time for consultations will have to be dealt with tomorrow, taking advantage of the free time tomorrow morning and afternoon.

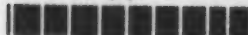
This afternoon, we shall continue the Committee's work related to action on all draft resolutions contained in revision 1 of unofficial document 3. I shall use the same procedure as in past meetings: we shall deal with general comments and explanations of vote by cluster, not by draft resolution. With that understanding, I shall begin with cluster 1, on nuclear weapons.

As no delegation wishes to make general comments, I now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position on any of the draft resolutions under this cluster.

Mr. Hu Xiaodi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Before we take action on three of the draft resolutions on nuclear disarmament, A/C.1/59/L.22, A/C.1/59/L.23 and A/C.1/59/L.26/Rev.1, the Chinese delegation would like to explain its position in the context of China's basic views and policy on nuclear disarmament.

China has always supported the total prohibition and complete destruction of nuclear weapons. We believe that, in the process of promoting that objective, the following are essential. All nuclear disarmament measures — including interim steps — should be consistent with the principle of maintaining global strategic stability and undiminished security for all countries. The countries possessing the largest and most advanced nuclear arsenals should make substantial further reductions in those arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner, thereby creating favourable conditions for complete nuclear disarmament. All nuclear-weapon States should pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and should unconditionally commit themselves not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or States in nuclear-weapon-free zones. Prevention of the weaponization of outer space and of an arms race in outer space would help to promote the nuclear disarmament process.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



We support the main thrust, objective and content of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.26/Rev.1 and the other two draft resolutions aimed at promoting nuclear disarmament and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons at an early date. However, they do not reflect some of the basic points I mentioned. Therefore, further improvements are warranted.

We will vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". Nevertheless, we have reservations concerning some parts of the text. For example, it fails to reflect the fact that non-first use of nuclear weapons and the prevention of an arms race in outer space would help to promote the nuclear disarmament process. Regarding transparency in nuclear disarmament measures, it fails to refer to the fact that nuclear transparency is related to an international climate of peace, stability and trust and should be considered in the nuclear disarmament negotiation process. In addition, the concept and definition of non-strategic nuclear weapons mentioned in the draft resolution are not clear.

We shall abstain in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons", because it fails to mention some of the fundamental principles of nuclear disarmament. Moreover, a few of the measures that it proposes are premature for implementation in the current international situation.

Mr. Carriedo Tomás (Spain) (spoke in Spanish): I should like to explain my delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

Spain is a State that is firmly committed to peace and to honouring its commitments to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Spain deems both of those concepts and objectives — disarmament and non-proliferation — to be inextricably linked: they reinforce each other as part of the effort to attain the single broader goal of international peace and security.

In that vein, Spain has always pursued an absolutely responsible and balanced policy consistent with its international and regional security commitments. One more proof of that commitment to peace and to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is Spain's decision this year to sponsor, for the first time on such a text, the draft resolution

contained in document A/C.1/59/L.23, "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". We have always backed previous draft resolutions on this subject, deeming them balanced and likely to give rise to global consensus.

As regards draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22 on accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments, Spain wishes to pay tribute to the constructive efforts of the New Agenda Coalition, coordinated this year by Sweden, which led to this draft resolution. The draft resolution represents a step in the right direction towards the formulation of a more balanced and more feasible text likely to rally global consensus. However, Spain feels that there is still room for improving the present text and, because of time considerations, we feel that this is not the moment for us to reconsider our abstention.

Mr. Baeldi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have taken the floor to explain my delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". My delegation shares the spirit of the draft resolution and agrees with elements of the preambular and operative parts. We therefore supported similar draft resolutions in previous years, including last year.

This year, the delegation of Japan, without prior consultations on the new draft resolution, has introduced approximately 20 new substantive paragraphs and other suggestions, many of which have important and broad implications for the ongoing nuclear disarmament agenda and negotiations, particularly now, when we are on the threshold of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. For example, operative paragraph 8 stresses the importance of the development of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) verification regime. This is not comprehensible. Since the CTBT is not yet in force, it is hard to imagine that its verification regime could be further developed. My delegation has therefore decided to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.19/Rev.1, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

I now give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.19/Rev.1, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mongolia at the Committee's 15th meeting, held on 22 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.19/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.3. In addition, the United States of America has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.19/Rev.1 have requested that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.19/Rev.1 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on the draft resolution contained in A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". Before proceeding to the consideration of the draft resolution as a whole, a separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 2. A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.22 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.2 and Add.3.

The Committee will now proceed to take a separate vote on operative paragraph 2, which reads as follows:

"Also calls upon all States to spare no efforts to achieve universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty."

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

France, India, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Mauritius, Monaco, Pakistan, Uzbekistan

Operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22 was retained by 153 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22 as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

I now give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22 as a whole.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

France, Israel, Latvia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Monaco, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, as a whole, was adopted by 135 votes to 5, with 25 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Japan at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.23 and A/C.1/59/INF/2 and Addenda 1, 2 and 3. In addition, Guinea-Bissau, Samoa, Uzbekistan and Zambia have now become sponsors of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada,

Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India, United States of America

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sweden

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23 was adopted by 151 votes to 2, with 16 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

A separate vote on operative paragraph 1 has been requested. A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39, entitled "Follow-up to the

advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.39 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.1, 2, 3 and 5. In addition, Jamaica, Kuwait and Timor-Leste have also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Committee will now proceed to take a separate vote on operative paragraph 1, which reads as follows:

"Underlines once again the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control".

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar,

Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Russian Federation, United States of America

Abstaining:

Belarus, France, Latvia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan

Operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39 was retained by 156 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39 as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39 as a whole.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait,

Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39, as a whole, was adopted by 118 votes to 28, with 21 abstentions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now call on those representatives wishing to explain their votes or positions on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Mine (Japan): I would like to explain Japan's position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, just adopted, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments", which Japan supported in the voting.

The draft resolution, submitted by the New Agenda Coalition, has been much improved compared with last year's resolution 58/51, entitled "Towards a

nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda", and offers effective approaches towards nuclear disarmament.

Japan does not necessarily agree with all of the points contained in the draft resolution. However, we support its overall objectives, with a view to engendering a favourable atmosphere for nuclear disarmament in the leadup to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We therefore decided to support the draft resolution.

I would like now to explain Japan's vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.39, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*". First of all, we highly appreciate Malaysia's sincere attitude and its firm commitment to the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament, which led to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39 being proposed. Japan also believes that the use of nuclear weapons — because of their immense power to cause destruction and death and injury to human beings — is clearly contrary to the fundamental humanitarianism that informs international law and provides its philosophical foundation. Therefore, we would like to stress that nuclear weapons should never again be used and that continuous efforts should be made to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

However, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which this draft resolution addresses, clearly demonstrates the complexity of the subject. Japan supports the unanimous opinion of the judges of the ICJ regarding the existing obligation under international law to pursue nuclear disarmament and to conclude the negotiations on that issue in good faith.

Japan firmly believes that we must take concrete measures to achieve steady, step-by-step progress in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. In that context, we believe it is premature to call upon all States to immediately fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer and threat of use or use of nuclear weapons. We believe that such steady, incremental progress should be made before we embark upon the negotiations that draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39 calls

upon all States to commence. That is why Japan abstained in the voting on the draft resolution.

Finally, Japan continues to encourage all efforts aimed at advancing nuclear disarmament.

Ms. Borslin Boanier (Sweden): I am taking the floor to speak in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23. I do so on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition — Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden. We abstained in the voting on the draft resolution.

The New Agenda Coalition believes that it is essential that the commitments made at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) be upheld in their entirety and as they were originally agreed. Some differences of interpretation in that regard underlie our abstention in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23. At the same time, we know and appreciate that Japan and the other sponsors share our goals and objectives concerning nuclear disarmament.

The 2005 NPT Review Conference is now approaching, and we believe that the time has come for us to look ahead and to work together to advance our common goals. The New Agenda Coalition stands ready to work together with Japan and the other sponsors towards that end and looks forward to doing so.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands) (spoke in French): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, as well as Germany and Norway, which have associated themselves with this explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.39, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

We support the unanimous conclusion in the Court's advisory opinion that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. That is why we voted in favour of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution.

However, although we share the opinion that the ultimate objective of nuclear disarmament is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, we cannot support the draft resolution as a whole. We regret that

this draft resolution refers to only one element of the International Court's advisory opinion. The advisory opinion is indivisible, and it must be considered in its entirety.

Furthermore, we are firmly convinced that nuclear disarmament cannot be achieved except through a gradual process. At the sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, States parties agreed on a series of practical steps in that regard. The international community should now focus on their implementation.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I have requested the floor to speak in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

We note the efforts of the States of the New Agenda Coalition to prepare for the present session of the General Assembly a more concise and balanced text for the draft resolution on nuclear disarmament in order to increase support for it. Indeed, some of the controversial issues surrounding last year's draft resolution have not arisen this year. Unfortunately, the text was also shortened, at the expense of a number of the important provisions contained in last year's draft resolution. I am referring in particular to the provisions concerning the close link between strategic offensive and defensive weapons and the importance of prohibiting the deployment of weapons in outer space.

Russia is conscientiously implementing all its obligations to reduce its nuclear-weapon stockpiles. However, it is difficult for us to agree with the idea of accelerating the nuclear disarmament process. On many occasions — including during the present session of the First Committee — we have drawn attention to the reasons why nuclear disarmament must be implemented in a gradual process on the basis of a comprehensive approach, while respecting the principle of equal security for all States, without any artificial haste. Russia has supported and will continue to support realistic and balanced proposals in that regard, for example the proposals contained in draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

Unlike last year's text, the text of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22 does not mention any progress in the area of nuclear disarmament. However, as we have

already pointed out, Russia is undertaking consistent, painstaking, labour-intensive and costly efforts to reduce and destroy its nuclear weapons, including within the framework of the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, which entered into force last year. There is no reference to that in the present draft resolution.

Those are some of the reasons why the Russian Federation abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, on accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments.

Mr. Rivas (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Concerning operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, as well as the eighteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 3 (a) of draft resolution L.23, where mention is made of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Colombia would like to reiterate what it has said in previous statements in explanation of vote on those draft resolutions submitted last year on the same agenda items.

In accordance with international law and with Colombia's Political Constitution of 1991, the obligations undertaken in treaties signed by our country are binding only from the time ratification has occurred. Colombia has put forward these arguments publicly and in a transparent manner, over a four-year period, before the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Organization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBTO) and the Preparatory Commission for the Treaty and its subsidiary bodies.

Colombia reaffirms its commitment to the Treaty and will continue to propose approaches aimed at overcoming such constitutional impediments in order to make contributions to the Preparatory Commission prior to the ratification of that Treaty.

We appreciate the interest shown by a number of States in finding a solution to these obstacles that would allow us to ratify the Treaty as early as possible — something to which we aspire. The proposals we have made that aim to overcome this problem continue to be discussed in the context of the Preparatory Commission for the Treaty and its subsidiary bodies, in consultation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat. We hope that these discussions will lead to an early solution to the problem facing Colombia that will enable us to ratify the Treaty.

Mr. Prasad (India): I am taking the floor to explain India's vote on three resolutions under cluster 1 — A/C.1/59/L.22, A/C.1/59/L.23 and A/C.1/59/L.19/Rev.1.

Prior to so doing, I have to seek a clarification from the Chairman, and, if necessary, through the Chairman to the Swedish delegation, concerning the title of resolution A/C.1/59/L.22. I thought I heard my Swedish colleague state, when the draft resolution was introduced, that the title was: "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". Document A/C.1/59/L.22, however, has only the phrase "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

Informal paper No. 3 and informal paper No. 3/Rev.1, containing today's programme — provided to us by the Secretariat — states that the draft resolution is entitled, "A new agenda", etc. We do not know where this has come from, because we do not believe in a new agenda. I had rather liked what my Swedish colleague had first said in her statement. Could the Chairman clarify?

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I should be delighted. I will try to give the representative of India an answer, and the representative of Sweden, if she wishes to do so, could be more specific. I took the precaution of reading the revised versions in English and Spanish, which both have the same title, "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

References to the new agenda appear in the title of the cluster under which this draft resolution has been submitted: "General and complete disarmament: towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda." The representative of Sweden may wish to add to that. I think that the titles of the English and Spanish versions match.

Ms. Borslin Bonnier (Sweden): I am very appreciative of the attention paid by my Indian colleague to this matter. I am afraid that he is absolutely correct. The title, when it was introduced, was as he said. Changes were made during technical processing by the Secretariat. We decided not to object and have a revision, so there was a modification when the draft resolution came out, and the title henceforth is as appears in the draft resolution that has been adopted today.

Mr. Prasad (India): We compliment the sponsors of A/C.1/59/L.21 for having considerably shortened their draft resolution and for having removed many of the prescriptive suggestions that were not central to the principal objective of the draft resolution, which we share.

India believes that moves towards the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world have to be grounded in the prevailing consensus contained in the Programme of Action of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to which all the then States Members of the United Nations were parties. That approach is still not fully reflected in A/C.1/59/L.22. Given that the draft resolution seeks a nuclear-weapon-free world, we should also have preferred references in it to the non-first use of nuclear weapons and also to the reduction of nuclear dangers, including through measures such as de-alert.

We also believe that efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free world will be constrained by the intrinsic inequality and discriminatory framework of the obligations enshrined in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The need, instead, is to move towards a more durable system of international security based on the principle of equal and legitimate security for all.

It is for those reasons that the Indian delegation voted against operative paragraph 2 and abstained in the voting on the draft resolution as a whole.

I turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". Even though India very much agrees with the basic objective of the draft resolution — the complete elimination of nuclear weapons — the Indian delegation voted against it because of what appears to us to be the flawed means recommended to pursue that objective.

India also agrees that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are intertwined and mutually reinforcing. However, we consider the principles of non-proliferation, as enshrined in the NPT, to be discriminatory. Moreover, operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution calls on India to join the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. That is unrealistic and unacceptable. India is prepared to go beyond this divisive debate and remains committed to working for equal and legitimate security for all through global disarmament.

A brief word now on A/C.1/59/L.19. The draft resolution, on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, which was adopted without a vote, has India's full support. India maintains the most friendly and fraternal ties with Mongolia and welcomes the many steps Mongolia has taken to reinforce its nuclear-weapon-free status.

We note that Mongolia has received support and security assurances for such status from Member States, particularly those that possess nuclear weapons. We note also that Mongolia is seeking to institutionalize, at the international level, the status of its territory as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

India fully respects the choice made by Mongolia, and is willing to respond, whenever required, with every possible support and commitment, to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status.

Mr. Helnsberg (Germany): I would like to explain our vote on draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.22 and A/C.1/59/L.23.

First, I will address draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, introduced by the New Agenda Coalition, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". Germany voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22. Germany recalls NATO's commitment to strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and to ensuring full compliance with it by all States parties to the Treaty.

Since the end of the cold war, NATO has taken far-reaching steps to adapt its overall strategy, policy and force posture, and has radically reduced its reliance on nuclear forces. Alliance nations have dramatically reduced nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. At the same time, the continuing existence of powerful nuclear forces outside the alliance constitutes a significant factor which the alliance has to take into account in maintaining security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region, on the basis of its strategic concept.

Germany believes that disarmament and non-proliferation efforts must go hand in hand. Nuclear disarmament is inextricably linked to non-proliferation. While voting in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, Germany feels obliged to emphasize its serious concerns with regard to the threat posed by the

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

Now I will explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, introduced by Japan, "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". Germany fully shares the commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and, in particular, to the full implementation by all States parties of their obligations under the NPT. The NPT remains a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of nuclear disarmament. The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, and its adoption by consensus, constituted an important step for the NPT and for the nuclear non-proliferation regime as a whole. We attach particular importance to the progressive and full implementation of the practical steps included in the Final Document, as they chart the way to nuclear disarmament.

Unfortunately, draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23 leaves room for possible misinterpretation as regards the commitment to the full implementation of the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT, as agreed by the 2000 NPT Review Conference, because the draft resolution does not reflect those steps in their entirety.

That remains the weak point of the draft resolution, and justifies concerns which had arisen in previous years. In the light of the clear commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation expressed in the draft resolution — which we fully share — Germany voted in favour. However, we must underline this year again that we do not interpret the selective quoting in the draft resolution as detracting from the comprehensive commitment by the States parties to the NPT to implement the conclusions of the Final Document in their entirety.

Mr. Faessler (Switzerland) (spoke in French): The delegation of Switzerland is taking the floor in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". Switzerland voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22. By its decision this year, Switzerland honours what it sees as the willingness of the sponsors to modify the content of the draft resolution by avoiding a number of controversial issues, in order to broaden support for the text. We hope that this will help create favourable conditions for the 2005 Review Conference of the

Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to achieve significant results.

We continue to support a realistic and pragmatic approach to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and Switzerland's position on the draft resolution does not reflect a change in our principles on this matter.

In conclusion, Switzerland has stressed on many occasions the importance of improved implementation of existing commitments in the areas of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and we will continue to do so.

Mr. Rivasseau (France) (*spoke in French*): I am taking the floor on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and France, to explain our vote against draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". Similar texts have been put forward over a number of years, and they have contained important elements that we support. However, when the draft resolution on this matter was introduced last year, we were sorry to note that the text also contained many elements that did not command consensus and that were not acceptable to the United Kingdom, the United States and France.

We note that this year's text reflects a more pragmatic approach, but there are elements that we cannot accept. The new title does not reflect the progress that has been achieved in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. The content does not take sufficient account of the full range of obligations for all of us in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

As we stated in our explanation of vote on last year's draft resolution, the United Kingdom, the United States and France remain fully committed to meeting their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We have taken significant steps in the area of nuclear disarmament and support worldwide reductions in nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, the draft resolution does not sufficiently take into account the progress that has been made in that area. While last year's draft resolution mentioned the Moscow Treaty, this year's does not. It fails to do so despite the fact that the Treaty commits the United States and the Russian Federation to reduce their

nuclear arsenals by several thousand warheads over the next decade.

Our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation commitments remain steadfast and are rooted in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As we turn our attention to the forthcoming Review Conference, due to take place here in New York in the spring, we hope that ongoing dialogue among States parties will help ensure that the progress made following previous review conferences will lead to the further strengthening of this cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Mr. Alhariri (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". We support the draft resolution on the basis of our full support for the efforts being made in the area of nuclear disarmament. We would like, however, to put on record our reservations about those references in the draft resolution that move us away from the goal of complete disarmament and weaken the efforts that have been made in that direction. The fact that paragraph 3 refers to the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), but not to the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, leads us to wonder whether the intention is to achieve genuine nuclear disarmament. Furthermore, we are of the view that the draft resolution does not fully assert the basic principles of nuclear disarmament or the importance of achieving the universality of the NPT.

My delegation hopes that those flaws will be corrected so that in future we can move in the right direction.

Mr. Elahi (Pakistan): My delegation would like to express its deep appreciation to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments", for the changes they have made to the draft resolution this year. Those changes represent a vast improvement compared with earlier similar draft resolutions. The draft resolution calls for meaningful disarmament measures and emphasizes the role of the Conference on Disarmament in that context. Those are elements which Pakistan has always supported. At the same time, elements of the draft resolutions of previous years to which we had objected have been eliminated this year.

Pakistan therefore voted in favour of the draft resolution, while abstaining on paragraph 2 for reasons that are well known.

My delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". Pakistan does not agree with several of the provisions of that draft resolution. It places inordinate emphasis on non-proliferation, rather than on nuclear disarmament, which represents a regression in this vital area, and it does not represent a path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which is what the draft resolution is supposed to be all about. Furthermore, we cannot endorse the content of some of the preambular paragraphs. The fact that several paragraphs of the draft resolution are centred on the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons made it difficult for Pakistan to consider voting in favour of it. For those reasons, my delegation abstained.

Mr. Luaces (United States of America): Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23 asserts, as its previous iterations have done, the importance of the urgent signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) with a view to achieving its early entry into force. The United States does not support the CTBT, and will not become a party to it. Moreover, the draft resolution calls for the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of an effectively verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty. While the United States continues to support negotiating such a treaty in the Conference on Disarmament, our internal review earlier this year concluded that such a treaty could not be made effectively verifiable. We are in no doubt as to the good intentions of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.23, especially given the clear efforts to make the language more balanced than in past versions. But, for the reasons that I have given, the United States was again obliged to vote against the draft resolution.

Mr. Lew (Republic of Korea): I would like to explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.22, entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

This year, my delegation has changed its position from abstention to support. Compared with last year's draft resolution, which included some elements that

were not acceptable to my country, in our view the New Agenda Coalition's draft resolution this year takes a balanced and more realistic approach. In addition, the draft resolution highlights certain specific areas in relation to nuclear disarmament to which my delegation attaches particular importance, including universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the beginning of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty.

Although we believe that the draft resolution still leaves room for further improvement, my delegation, taking into account the positive aspects to which I referred, has decided to support the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We turn now to the one draft resolution under cluster 6, as listed in Informal Paper No. 3/Rev.1. The sponsors have requested that the draft resolution be considered at a future meeting.

If I hear no objection to that request, the Committee will consider that draft resolution on Monday, 1 November.

The Committee will now turn to consideration of cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery".

I call on the representative of Israel, who has asked to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Bar (Israel): My intention is to give an explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1, "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

We have decided to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1 despite our disappointment with its present text, which does not reflect the full scope of the work that took place in the Conference on Disarmament this year. The so-called out-of-the-box issues have been extensively discussed in the Conference on Disarmament throughout the year. That reality, unfortunately, has not been reflected in the draft resolution before us, and we again would like to express our disappointment in that regard.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft A/C.1/59/L.14, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to

disarmament". I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.14, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, at the 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/59/L.14. In addition, Somalia and Jamaica have now become sponsors of the draft resolution.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.14, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", I wish to put on record the following statement on financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

By operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to establish an open-ended working group, working on the basis of consensus, to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament; request the open-ended Working Group to hold an organizational session in order to set the date for its substantive sessions in 2006, and to submit a report on its work, including possible substantive recommendations, before the end of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly; and request the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide the open-ended Working Group with the necessary assistance and services as may be required to discharge its tasks.

Pursuant to the above requests, it is envisaged that the open-ended working group will hold four meetings in 2006 in New York. The exact dates for those meetings will be determined in consultation between the substantive secretariat and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management, subject to the availability of conference facilities and services allocated to the General Assembly and its working groups and on the condition that no two working groups of the General Assembly would meet simultaneously.

The conference servicing requirements at full cost are estimated in 2006 at \$190,786. The extent to which the Organization's capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006-2007. Provision for such requirements would be considered under the relevant section for conference services of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.14, no additional requirements would arise for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.14 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.24, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa". I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.24, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, at the 15th meeting, on 22 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.24 and

A/C.1/59/INF/2. In addition, Somalia has now become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.24 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Myanmar at the Committee's 16th meeting, held on 25 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1 have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.27/Rev.1 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolutions in thematic cluster 8, "Other disarmament measures".

The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the Committee's 15th meeting, held on 22 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.31

and A/C.1/59/INF/2 and Addenda 1, 3, 4 and 5. The following countries have also become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31: Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal and Serbia and Montenegro.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31 have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now call on those delegations wishing to speak in explanation of position on draft resolutions in this thematic cluster.

Mr. Elahi (Pakistan): I would like to explain Pakistan's position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31, just adopted, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

When in March 1995 the terrorist group Aum Shinrikyo used sarin nerve agent to launch a chemical attack in the Tokyo subway system, the incident tragically illustrated the consequences of the use of chemical agents for terrorist purposes. The case also illustrated the need for national authorities in all countries to remain vigilant concerning the possibility of such groups working to acquire highly dangerous and lethal capabilities.

We therefore support the objectives of the draft resolution, although we believe that its language could have been improved to convey a more objective reflection of reality. For, even in the Aum Shinrikyo case, investigations established that despite the considerable financial resources and the know-how of that outfit, it had failed logistically in its other plans to produce weapons of mass destruction.

The best guarantee against the threat of the possible use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons is their elimination. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is doing important work in promoting the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its national implementation by States parties. Comprehensive national implementation — which includes both legal and administrative measures to ensure proper accounting and control of trade in relevant substances — in itself ensures denial of those materials for any illegal purposes, including terrorist ones.

A serious concern, however, relates to the alarmingly slow pace of destruction of weaponized chemical agents by the major possessor States. As long as those weapons remain in existence — and in such huge quantities — the possibility of their falling into the hands of terrorists also remains. Unfortunately, a compliance mechanism which would have placed the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention on the same footing as that of the Chemical Weapons Convention was scuttled after six years of intensive negotiations owing to a minority veto. We are convinced that a revival of that process would fully serve the goal of promoting international peace and security, and would also address the concerns expressed, for example, in the draft resolution we have just adopted.

The draft resolution quite appropriately mentions the Final Document of the thirteenth Non-Aligned Movement Summit as having expressed itself on the issue of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. We would just like to recall that, in the context of the issue of terrorism, that document also stresses the need to address the causes that sometimes lead to terrorism — causes that lie in oppression, injustice and deprivation.

Mr. Paranhos (Brazil): I would like to refer to our position with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.31.

The resolution makes reference in its fourth preambular paragraph to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which was adopted with the support of Brazil. We would like to take this opportunity to state our understanding that Council resolution 1540 (2004) is specific, and addresses the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists and other non-State actors.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of the Netherlands for a general comment.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) to make a general statement on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.35, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region". The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro; and the European Free Trade

Association country Norway, member of the European Economic area, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.35, which all its member States have co-sponsored and which we hope will be adopted without a vote. The European Union attaches great importance to the issues of security, non-proliferation and disarmament in the Mediterranean region. As was stated in the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction adopted by our leaders in December 2003, "security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean". That concept is specifically mentioned in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution before us, which also recognizes that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East.

The Barcelona or Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process, launched in 1995 as the Mediterranean dimension of the EU's external policy, has made a major contribution to the establishment and development of a global partnership between the European Union, its member countries and the Mediterranean partners. That partnership includes engagements regarding non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, nuclear-weapon-free zones, verification, conventional weapons and confidence-building measures. The European Union attaches particular importance to the goal of transforming the Mediterranean into a sea of peace, stability, cooperation and development, as well as, and above all, security.

In the context of working towards strengthening security and stability in that crucial region, the EU warmly welcomes Libya's decision to eliminate all material, equipment and programmes that lead to the production of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, together with the practical steps it has undertaken since to implement that decision. The case of Libya demonstrates that the problems of proliferation can, with good will, be tackled through discussion and engagement, that countries can abandon programmes voluntarily and peacefully, and that States have nothing to fear from coming forward and admitting non-compliance.

The European Union calls on all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to accede to all the multilaterally negotiated legally binding instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to strengthen peace and cooperation in the region.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.35, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region". I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.35, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 16th meeting, on 25 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.35 and A/C.1/59/INF/2 and Add.3.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.35 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We have thus concluded our consideration of the draft resolutions contained in Informal Paper No. 3/Rev.1.

Next week, we will consider the draft resolutions contained in Informal Paper No. 4.

Other matters

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I wish to remind representatives that the awards ceremony for the United Nations Disarmament Fellowships will be held immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

Although there are no official meetings of the Committee tomorrow, there will be consultations, and I wish to remind representatives in particular that, in my capacity as Chairman, I shall be holding open-ended consultations on the report which the Committee is to submit to the General Assembly under resolution 58/316, with specific regard to the agenda. I urge representatives to play an active role in those and other consultations.

I would like to conclude this meeting by briefly addressing a question raised by the delegation of Egypt with respect to the financial situation and programme of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to inform the delegation of Egypt that the Secretariat has reminded me that such questions are dealt with in the Fifth Committee. They have offered to bring the question to the attention of the Fifth Committee in order to provide the requested information. I would like to offer to personally bring the question to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee in order to obtain most expeditiously the response requested by the delegation of Egypt. I underline that this does not mean that other members of this Committee are not in a position to learn any information the Fifth Committee, as a Main Committee of the General Assembly, provides. It is a simple question of raising matters in the appropriate body, not in any way a question of concealing information.

Does the delegation of Egypt agree to that manner of proceeding?

Mr. Shamaa (Egypt): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your explanation. We do indeed ask you to be good enough to inquire of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee about the costs of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I shall bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, independent of the action of the appropriate Secretariat offices, which have brought the matter to the attention of the Fifth Committee's secretariat.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.